

**MINUTES OF THE
TWENTY-SEVENTH GENERAL SYNOD
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN**

**EDITH A. GUFFEY, ADMINISTRATOR
THE TWENTY-SEVENTH GENERAL SYNOD**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Item</u>	<u>Page</u>
Plenary 1	1
Plenary 2	7
Plenary 3	11
Iraq Refugees Resolution	
Ecumenical Commitments & Initiatives Resolution	
Constitution and Bylaws vote	
Plenary 4	25
National Basic Support Allocations	
Calling on the President to Renegotiate NAFTA Resolution	
End Trafficking in Persons Resolution	
Plenary 5	36
Unified Governance Resolution	
Economic Justice Resolution	
Global Mission Churches Resolution	
Eugenics Movement Resolution	
Comprehensive HIV Prevention Resolution	
Health Care for All Resolution	
Affirming the ACCRA Confession Resolution	
Global Food Crisis Resolution	
Plenary 6	50
Solidarity & Friendship with Iran Resolution	
Responsible Meeting Practice Resolution	
Ministering to Those in a Troubled Economy Resolution	
Sacred Conversation on Race Resolution	
Diversity Education in Public Schools Resolution	
Justice Town Hall Gathering Resolution	
Amended Sections to the Constitution	18
Amended Sections to the Bylaws	20
Uncontested Election Results	27
Resolutions Sent Directly to Implementing Body or Study Group	61
Twenty-seventh General Synod Voting Delegates	74
APPENDIX A:	Credentials Committee Roster
APPENDIX B:	Second Report of the Executive Council
APPENDIX C:	Standing Rules
APPENDIX D:	Executive Council Report
APPENDIX E:	General Synod Nominating Committee Roster
APPENDIX F:	General Synod Nominating Committee Report
APPENDIX G:	Report of the Chief Financial Officer
APPENDIX H:	Report of the Credentials Committee

**MINUTES
TWENTY-SEVENTH GENERAL SYNOD**

IMMERSE YOURSELF

**GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN
JUNE 26 – JUNE 30, 2009**

**Friday Afternoon, June 26, 2009
First Plenary Session**

The delegates began the plenary by viewing an audiovisual presentation of the creation story to “Immerse Yourself” themes of water.

1. GENERAL SYNOD CALL TO ORDER

Moderator Marvin Morgan (SE) called the first business session of the Twenty-seventh General Synod to order at 3:26 PM. Mr. Morgan led the delegates and visitors in prayer.

Mr. Morgan introduced assistant moderators Mr. John Humphrey (CAC) and Ms. Jane Tedder (KO).

2. INTRODUCTION OF GENERAL SYNOD LEADERSHIP

Mr. Morgan introduced Parliamentarians: Mr. Bob Frieberg (SD) who serves as the Moderators’ Parliamentarian, and Mr. Mal Bertram (MASS) as the Delegates’ Parliamentarian. Mr. Morgan introduced Mr. Corey Larson, the Agenda Coordinator and Mr. Lee Foley, the Minister for Governing Body Relations who would be responsible for the flow of business before the delegates.

Each alerted the delegates to appropriate procedural rules as well as the role of the Youth Stewards.

Mr. Morgan explained the committee process including the composition and roll the Agenda Committee has during General Synod.

3. REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE
(SEE APPENDIX A: CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE ROSTER)

Mr. Morgan called on Mr. Ed Moreano (IOWA), chairperson of the Credentials Committee who moved the adoption of the Credentials Committee report as follows:

The Credentials Committee of the Twenty-seventh General Synod examined the demographic make-up of the thirty-eight conference delegations. While the Committee found certain instances where improvement can be made, it certifies the delegation-as-a-whole.

The Committee has directed its staff to work with the Minister for Youth and Young Adult Ministries and the Minister for Conference Relations to assist the conferences in increasing the percentage of delegates under the age of thirty at the Twenty-eighth General Synod in Tampa in 2011.

The Committee has directed its staff to work with the Minister for Affirmative Action and Diversity Initiatives and the Minister for Conference Relations to increase the number of delegates who are people of color at the Twenty-eighth General Synod.

Further, the Committee asks that conferences be intentional when selecting delegates to the Twenty-eighth General Synod, that they be intentional in selecting delegates under the age of thirty and intentional in seeking and selecting delegates who are people of color. And, the Committee asks the

churches of the United Church of Christ to be accepting as the population shifts and as the color and complexion of neighborhoods change. It asks the local churches to be proactive in inviting people of color and young people to join them.

09-GS-1 VOTED BY CONSENSUS: The Twenty-seventh General Synod adopts the report of the Credentials Committee.

4. QUORUM DECLARED

Mr. Morgan declared a quorum was present and the Twenty-seventh General Synod was in session.

5. ANNOUNCEMENT OF TELLERS

Mr. Morgan directed delegates to the Executive Council report that contained the list of delegates who have agreed to serve as tellers for the Twenty-seventh General Synod. Those persons named were: **(SEE APPENDIX B: SECOND REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL)**

6. ADOPTION OF THE GENERAL SYNOD AGENDA

Mr. Morgan called on Mr. Jim Moos (NoP), Chairperson of the Executive Council, for the introduction of the proposed agenda.

Mr. Moos moved that the Twenty-seventh General Synod adopt the agenda as printed and authorize the Agenda Committee to make necessary adjustments.

09-GS-2 VOTED BY CONSENSUS: The Twenty-seventh General Synod adopts the proposed agenda as printed and authorizes the Agenda Committee to make necessary adjustments.

7. ADOPTION OF THE STANDING RULES

Mr. Moos moved the adoption of the Standing Rules for the Twenty-seventh General Synod as recommended by the Executive Council.

09-GS-3 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod adopts the Standing Rules as recommended by the Executive Council. **(SEE APPENDIX C: STANDING RULES)**

8. DESIGNATION OF RESOURCE PERSONS GRANTED VOICE WITHOUT VOTE

Mr. Moos moved the adoption of the Executive Council recommendation that the Twenty-seventh 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.

Mal Bertram	Parliamentarian
Doug Borko	Our Church's Wider Mission Presentation
Kelly Burd	Youth Presentation
Tom Chu	Youth Presentation
Felix Carrion	TSI Presentation
Bentley de Bardelaben	Our Church's Wider Mission Presentation
Robert Frieberg	Parliamentarian
Betty Hall	Budget Report
George Heartwell	Mayor of Grand Rapids
Jane Heckles	Our Church's Wider Mission Presentation
Kathy Houston	Budget Report
Ann Kiernozeck	Budget Report
Peter Makari	Overseas Guest Presentation

Susan Sanders
Dave Schoen
Carol Shipley
Henry Simmons
Dick Sparrow
Lydia Veliko

Our Church's Wider Mission Presentation
New Church Recognition Presentation
Nominating Committee Report
Introduction of Geoffrey Black
Speak Out Coordinator
Ecumenical Guest Presentation

09-GS-4 VOTED BY CONSENSUS: The Twenty-seventh General Synod grants voice without vote to the above named persons.

9. DESIGNATION OF GROUPS GRANTED VOICE WITHOUT VOTE

Mr. Moos moved on behalf of the Business Committee that the Twenty-seventh General Synod grant voice without vote to designated groups and to their stated representatives.

1—**Focus Renewal Ministries:** Ms. Janet Smithson, Shepard of the Hills UCC (Pennsylvania Southeast); Mr. Vernon Stoop, Church by The Sea UCC (Florida) designated for accreditation,

2—**The UCC Professional Chaplains and Counselors:** Ms. Dorothy Shelly, St. Peter's Tohickon UCC (Pennsylvania Southeast); Ms. Martha Jacobs, The Riverside Church (New York) designated for accreditation.

3—**UCC Military Chaplains:** Ms. Janice Dashner, O'Fallon UCC (Illinois South); Mr. Christopher Edwards, Good Shepherd of Faith UCC (Illinois South) designated for accreditation.

4—**Network for Environmental and Economic Responsibility:** Mr. Doug Hunt, Church of Our Savior UCC (Southeast); Mr. Donald Clark, Pleasant Hill Community UCC (Southeast) designated for accreditation,

5—**United Church of Christ Musicians Association:** Mr. Harold Smith, Unity Hill UCC (Connecticut); Ms. Carole Fanslow Unity Hill UCC (Connecticut) designated for accreditation,

6—**Faithful and Welcoming Churches of the United Church of Christ:** Mr. Bob Thompson, Corinth Reformed Church (Southern); Mr. John Roberts, Eden UCC (Illinois South) designated for accreditation,

7—**The Ministry for God's Animals:** Mr. Stephen Kaufman, Plymouth Church of Shaker Heights (Ohio); Ms. Lisa Hadler, First Congregational UCC (Illinois) designated for accreditation,

8—**The Association of United Church Educators:** Mr. John Whitebread, Plymouth Congregational UCC (Indiana Kentucky); Ms. Debbie Gline Allen, 1st Parish UCC (New Hampshire) designated for accreditation,

9—**Biblical Witness Fellowship:** Mr. David Runnion-Bareford, Candia Congregational Church (New Hampshire); Mr. William Boylan, Byfield Parish Church (Massachusetts) designated for accreditation.

10—**The Association of Intentional Interim Ministers:** Ms. Patricia Barth, Rockville UCC (Central Atlantic); Ms. Andrea Stoeckel, Faith United UCC (New York) designated for accreditation,

11—**Christians for Justice Action:** Mr. Kwami Osei Reed, Heritage Fellowship UCC (Central Atlantic); Ms. Ann Marie Coleman, University Church UCC (Illinois Conference) designated for accreditation.

09-GS-5 VOTED BY CONSENSUS: The Twenty-seventh General Synod grants voice without vote to the designated groups and the respective representatives.

10. INITIAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Moderator Morgan invited Mr. Jim Moos, Chairperson of the Executive Council, to present the initial report of the Executive Council, as posted on-line. (**SEE APPENDIX D: EXECUTIVE COUNCIL REPORT**)

Mr. Moos described the work of the Executive Council during the past biennium including the efforts and work of two Governance Follow-Up Teams, receiving the report of the Twenty-sixth General Synod mandate for implementation of the resolution “In Support of a Renewed and Balanced Study and Response to the Conflict between Israel and Palestine,” receiving the report of the Collegium, updates from the Covenanted Ministries, our ecumenical and interfaith work, the ceasing of the publication of the United Church News in favor of a significantly increased presence on the website, and our continuing dialogue with conferences concerning mutual challenges and opportunities.

11. NOMINEES FOR THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Mr. Moos presented the slate of nominees for the General Synod Nominating Committee. They are as follows:

Christine Tubbs, Iowa Conference
Ivy Tillman, Massachusetts Conference
James Turner, Indiana-Kentucky Conference
Ralph France, Central Atlantic Conference
Nancy Phipps, Kansas-Oklahoma Conference
Christina Held, California Nevada Southern Conference
Tim Marquez, South Central Conference
Dawn Shippe, New Hampshire Conference
James Foucher, Rocky Mountain Conference
Chandra Soans, Pennsylvania Southeast Conference
Chris Rankin, Penn Central Conference
Joe Schulte, South Dakota Conference

Of this list of twelve, the General Synod will elect three clergy and three lay persons. Biographies were on the website as part of the report of the Executive Council.

Receiving no nominations from the floor, Mr. Morgan declared the nominations for the Nominating Committee closed.

Mr. Moos continued his report indicating that Historically Under-represented Groups were also eligible to submit names for nomination. Those persons nominated by these groups were:

Eric C. Smith, Coalition for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns
Angela Myers, United Black Christians

As nominations from the floor are not allowed for these positions, Mr. Moos indicated their names would be placed on the ballot. Elections will be Monday evening.

12. REPORT OF THE GENERAL SYNOD NOMINATING COMMITTEE
(SEE APPENDIX E: GENERAL SYNOD NOMINATING COMMITTEE ROSTER)

Mr. Morgan introduced Ms. Carol Shipley (MONT-NO.WYO), Chairperson of the Nominating Committee, to present the report of the Committee.

Ms. Shipley, on behalf of the Twenty-seventh General Synod Nominating Committee, submitted the report of the Committee as posted on the website. **(SEE APPENDIX F: GENERAL SYNOD NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT)**

13. NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR FOR BOARDS

Mr. Morgan indicated that Standing Rules 28-30 describe the procedures for nominations from the floor.

09-GS-6 VOTED BY CONSENSUS: The Twenty-seventh General Synod votes to close nominations.

14. INTRODUCTION AND SPEECH OF THE CANDIDATE FOR EXECUTIVE MINISTER OF LOCAL CHURCH MINISTRIES

Assistant Moderator Ms. Jane Tedder introduced Ms. Marilyn Pagan-Banks, Chairperson of the Local Church Ministries Board of Directors. Ms. Pagan-Banks introduced Mr. Steve Sterner who has been serving as Acting Executive Minister of Local Church Ministries since October 2007 as the candidate for the position of Executive Minister for Local Church Ministries. Ms. Pagan-Banks explained Mr. Sterner's appointment and his leadership efforts since his appointment. Mr. Sterner spoke to the delegates.

15. CONTINUATION OF THE REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE REPORT

Ms. Tedder introduced Mr. Mark Clark, Chairperson of the Executive Council Committee of Reference. Mr. Clark reported nineteen proposed resolutions were received by the January deadline and posted on the General Synod section of the United Church of Christ website on April 1. Ten resolutions submitted by the June 5 deadline were printed and placed on the delegate tables today. To summarize: A total of twenty-nine resolutions were received. The Committee recommends designating sixteen as Prudential Resolutions and thirteen as Resolutions of Witness. Twenty-four of the resolutions are recommended for referral to committees of the General Synod, two directly to a plenary session and three to implementing or other bodies.

Mr. Clark directed the delegates to the locations of the respective resolutions. Mr. Clark moved the Twenty-seventh General Synod adopts the Report of the Committee of Reference and delegates it to the Business Committee along with the referral of new business submitted during the first plenary of this General Synod.

09-GS-7 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod adopts the Report of the Committee of Reference and delegates it to the Business Committee along with the referral of new business submitted during the first plenary of this General Synod.

16. INTRODUCTION OF NEW BUSINESS (BY TITLE ONLY)

Mr. Morgan indicated this was the only time in the agenda when delegates may introduce new business, by title only. Items introduced will be referred to the Business Committee for recommendation. The following resolutions were introduced:

IN SOLIDARITY WITH PEOPLE OF IRAN

MINISTERING TO THOSE SUFFERING AND STRUGGLING IN THE ECONOMY

RECOGNITION OF REV OWEN LOVEJOY OF CONGRESS

MAKING MISSION AND MINISTRY OUR FIRST PRIORITY

Moderator Morgan referred the new resolutions to the Business Committee for recommended action and directed those bringing the resolutions to meet Mr. Hans Holznagel, staff to the Committee of Reference, and Mr. Foley at the foot of the stage following the plenary, where they would formally receive the resolutions.

17. PRESENTATION OF NEW CONGREGATIONS

Mr. Morgan called upon Mr. David Schoen, Team Leader for the Congregational Vitality and Discipleship Ministry Team, for the celebration of new churches. Mr. Schoen offered a slide presentation.

Representatives of new churches marched through the plenary.

Mr. Schoen called on representatives of “church multipliers” who offered the names of churches they had started.

Mr. Schoen urged everyone to help start new churches by supporting the Strengthen the Church Offering. He also encouraged each church to be a birthing church.

18. OUR CHURCH’S WIDER MISSION “CHANGING LIVES” PRESENTATION

Ms. Tedder called upon Ms. Jane Heckles and Mr. Felix Carrion who offered the first “Changing Lives” presentation lifting up Our Church’s Wider Mission.

19. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Morgan introduced Ms. Edith Guffey, Administrator of the Twenty-seventh General Synod for announcements.

Ms. Guffey welcomed everyone to Grand Rapids.

Sacred Conversations on Race will be held Sunday morning.

Evening session begins with Plenary. The bar of house will not be established this evening.

Ms. Guffey indicated a number of room changes for meetings.

Speakout! times will begin on Monday. Sign up following worship this evening or at the end of this plenary.

20. RECESS

Ms. Tedder declared the first plenary of the Twenty-seventh General Synod to be in recess.

Friday evening, June 26, 2009
Second Plenary Session

1. CALL TO ORDER

Assistant Moderator Ms. Jane Tedder called the second plenary of the Twenty-seventh General Synod to order.

2. WELCOME FROM THE MICHIGAN CONFERENCE AND GRAND RAPIDS

Ms. Tedder called upon Ms. Judith Youngman, Interim Michigan Conference Minister to welcome delegates and visitors to the Conference. She introduced the Local Arrangements Committee Co-Chairs, Ms. Terrie Loomis and Ms. Dianne Roberts, and praised them and all the volunteers for their hard work.

Assistant Moderator Tedder also thanked the members of the Local Arrangements Committee and all volunteers who have worked to make this General Synod an enjoyable and memorable experience for everyone. She then introduced the Mayor of Grand Rapids, Mr. George Heartwell, who is also a United Church of Christ pastor serving the East Congregational United Church of Christ.

Mr. Heartwell greeted the assembly and welcomed everyone to Grand Rapids.

3. CELEBRATION OF THE MERGER OF THE EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCHES

Assistant Moderator Tedder shared that June 26, 2009 marks the 75th Anniversary of the formation of the Evangelical and Reformed Church through the union of the Reformed Church in the United States and the Evangelical Synod of North America. The E&R merger brought together people with strong confessional traditions and those with broader, more catholic and irenic belief. It was a bold experiment in trust. The two churches agreed to unite in 1934, with no completed Constitution, no long negotiated compromises, but only a solid conviction that their unity in Christ would be capable of resolving all tensions and disputes. They cast their futures into the ecumenical ship of acceptance, joy, unity, and understanding.

The church faced many struggles between the two World Wars with its predominantly German cultural roots, but with creative leadership called for justice, peace, transforming philosophies and radical ethics. So we celebrate the unity of God's people in Christ, the value of all people and the courage to speak truth to power. In these traditions we live and move and have our being.

4. INTRODUCTION OF ECUMENICAL DELEGATES AND PARTNERS

Assistant Moderator John Humphrey called on Ms. Lydia Veliko, Minister for Ecumenical Relations, to introduce ecumenical delegates and partners.

Ms. Veliko introduced the following ecumenical delegates:

Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins, General Minister and President of the Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

Rev. Dr. Michael Kinnamon, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches and
a pastor in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Rev. Gerald Dylostra, Executive Director of the Christian Reformed Church

Rev. Don McCoid, Ecumenical Officer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Rev. Paula Dempsey, Minister for Ecumenical and Mission Relationships for the
Alliance of Baptists

Rev. Carlos Malave, Assistant Stated Clerk/Associate for Ecumenical Relations for the
Presbyterian Church (USA)

Rev. David Baak, pastor in the Reformed Church in America and former representative to the United Church of Christ's Executive Council

09-GS-8 VOTED: Hearing no objection, Assistant Moderator Humphrey indicated the above delegates are granted voice at this Twenty-seventh General Synod.

5. INTRODUCTION OF OVERSEAS GUESTS

Mr. Humphrey called upon Ms. Cally Rogers-Witte, Minister of Wider Church Ministries, to introduce the overseas guests.

Ms. Rogers-Witte introduced the following overseas guests:

From Africa: Rev. Edward Mauvhunye, President of the United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe

From East Asia and the Pacific: Dr. Fe'lioakitau Kaho Tevi, General Secretary of the Pacific Conference of Churches in Fiji

Ms. Rogers-Witte reported that Rev. Berlin and Mrs. Melinda Guerrero of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines were not granted visas, likely due to Rev. Guerrero's status as a former political prisoner of the Government of the Philippines.

From Europe: Rev. Dale Rominger, Secretary for World Church Relations for the United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom

From Latin America and the Caribbean: Mr. Miquel Villa, Superintendent of the Christian Congregational Churches of Mexico

From the Middle East: Mr. Samer Laham, Head of the Department of Ecumenical Relations, Development and Fundraising for the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East, from Damascus, Syria

From Southern Asia: Rev. Sampath T. Bagavandoss, Secretary of the Diocese of Madras of the Church of South India

Rev. Edward Matuvhunye, President of the United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe, offered a word of greeting on behalf of our global partners.

Ms. Rogers-Witte then introduced the following mission personnel appointed by Global Ministries:

Rev. Susan Valiquette and Rev. Scott Couper, serving with the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa

Ms. Donna Dudley, working with the Evangelical Congregational Church of Angola

Ms. Martha Mensendiek, a teacher at the Doshisha University in Japan

Rt. Rev. Zoltan Szucs, working at the invitation of the Reformed Church of Hungary

Ms. Kevin Howe, a Global Mission Intern working with the Christian Commission on Development in Honduras

The above missionaries were thanked for their service on our behalf.

09-GS-9 VOTED: Ms. Rogers-Witte moved the above guests be granted voice. Hearing no objection, Assistant Moderator Humphrey indicated these guests are granted voice at this Twenty-seventh General Synod.

6. INTRODUCTION OF HONORED GUESTS

Mr. Humphrey introduced the following Honored Guests:

Former Moderators:

Mr. John Krueger and Mrs. Pat Krueger

Mr. Nate A Lewis, Jr. and Mr. Varnell Lewis

Ms. Merlyn Lawrence and Mr. Oliver Lawrence
 Mr. Jack Jackson
 Ms. Denise Page Hood will arrive later
 Former Instrumentality Executives:
 Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society:
 Ms. Mary Susan Gast and Mr. Roger Straw
 Ms. Loey Powell
 Office of Communication:
 Mr. Arthur Cribbs
 Mr. Robert Chase and Mrs. Blythe Chase
 Office for Church in Society:
 Ms. Yvonne Delk
 Mr. Wally Ryan-Kuroiwa
 Stewardship Council:
 Mr. Earl Miller and Mrs. Pat Miller
 United Church Board for Homeland Ministries:
 Mr. Thomas Dipko and
 Mrs. Sandy Dipko
 United Church Board for World Ministries:
 Mr. David Hirano and Mrs. Sandra Hirano
 Mrs. Jean Libbey, wife of former Executive
 Scott Libbey
 Secretary of the Church:
 Ms. Carol Joyce and Mr. Neal Luebke
 Treasurer of the Church:
 Mr. Charles Lockyear and Mrs. Catherine Lockyear
 Ms. Doris Powell
 President of the Church:
 Mr. Avery Post and Mrs. Margaret Post
 Mr. Paul Sherry and Mrs. Mary Sherry
 Mrs. Harriett Evans, widow of Mr. Joe Evans
 Wider Church Ministries:
 Mr. Dale Bishop
 Ms. Olivia White
 Mr. Bennie Whiten and Mrs. Susan Sporte

09-GS-10 VOTED: With the acclamation of delegates, Assistant Moderator Humphrey declared the above Honored Guests are granted voice at this Twenty-seventy General Synod.

7. REMEMBERING THE MINISTRY OF JOSEPH EVANS, FORMER SECRETARY AND PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Mr. Humphrey called upon Ms. Edith Guffey and Mr. John Thomas. They recalled how Rev. Joseph Evans was a principal leader shaping the life of the United Church of Christ in its formative years and how his life touched so many as a leader, friend, and source of encouragement and wisdom.

8. INTRODUCTION OF THE CANDIDATE FOR GENERAL MINISTER AND PRESIDENT

Mr. Humphrey called upon Mr. Henry Simmons, Chair of the General Minister and President Search Committee, to introduce the candidate for General Minister and President.

Mr. Simmons announced the Committee had chosen the Rev. Geoffrey Black (NY) to present as its candidate for General Minister and President. Mr. Black has ministered for over fifteen years in local

United Church of Christ congregations and currently serves as Conference Minister of the New York Conference. He was previously a program staff member in the Office for Church Life and Leadership.

Mr. Black addressed the delegates and visitors. Mr. Black talked about the “we-ness” factor:

We are adequately and incredibly gifted to serve the world.

We are skilled to serve.

We have been given the resources to nurture leadership and render compassionate care.

We are guided and empowered by God to be Christ’s Disciples in these times and in this place.

We-ness is a spiritual reality for all who serve in concert with the living Christ.

We-ness is what is there as we are empowered and guided by the Holy Spirit.

Assistant Moderator John Humphrey thanked Mr. Black for his comments.

9. EXPLANATION OF RIVER CITY SATURDAY, SACRED CONVERSATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Humphrey called upon Ms. Edith Guffey, Associate General Minister, for an explanation of the River City Saturday events, Sacred Conversations on Race and announcements.

Ms. Guffey advised that thunder storms created the cancellation of Ms. Madera Hirata’s flight so her presentation will not take place.

The keynote address tomorrow will be at 9:00 AM.

Some presenters for River City Saturday will be here in the convention center or Amway Grand Hotel.

Don’t forget to sign up for Speakouts!

Committee assigned business will be available tomorrow.

10. RECESS

Mr. Humphrey declared the second plenary of the Twenty-seventh General Synod to be in recess.

Worship

Rev. Otis Moss III of Trinity United Church of Christ, Chicago, IL provided the message for the Friday evening worship service. Mr. Moss reminded everyone that “We are not periods, we are commas. Only God has the right to place a period.”

Saturday morning, June 27, 2009

Morning prayers were led by hosts Mr. Fred Johnson, Ms. Melissa Lopez and Ms. Lori Souder.

Keynote address was given by Mr. Eugene Robinson, Columnist for the Washington Post.

River City Saturday was celebrated with various presenters and workshops available for delegates and visitors, followed by a celebration in the Plenary Hall at 7:30 PM.

Sunday afternoon, June 28, 2009

Worship

Rev. John Thomas, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, provided the message for the Sunday worship service. His sermon, entitled “Dumped in the Sea, Dipped in the Pool, Drenched in the River” reminded everyone that “there are no crocodiles in the river of evangelism, only God’s amazing grace.”

Sunday evening, June 28, 2009

Committees in Session

The committees of the General Synod, those considering proposed resolutions were in session.

Monday morning, June 29, 2009

Committees in Session

Those committees of the General Synod which had not completed their consideration of resolutions were in session.

Monday afternoon, June 29, 2009

Third Plenary Session

1. CALL TO ORDER

Moderator Marvin Morgan called the third plenary session of the Twenty-seventh General Synod to order.

2. SPEAKOUTS!

Mr. Morgan called upon the following Speakout! Participants:

1. Willie Mae Hawkins (SOC) is Founder of “Spring Incorporated” a workshop ministry for single parents
2. Earl Menchhofer (IS) offered a tribute to “Veterans of the Cross’ including his father, who attended General Synod for many years and had a great love for the United Church of Christ
3. Elizabeth Dilley (IOWA) & Amy Roon (PNW) representing the 20/30 clergy network, invited all clergy under the age of 40 to stand, as well as the 20/30 alumni
4. Jeannette Brown (CAC) invited churches to join the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society “Light the Night Walk”
5. Don Hart (NY) – In 1909 the Pilgrim Memorial Fund established by the Congregational Church had \$5 million. Five decades later, it became the United Church Foundation, which this year celebrated 100 years of service with \$500 million in managed funds. Now it begins a second century of service with a new name, “United Church Funds.”
6. Kathy Olmsted (NY) invited delegates to attend the New England Women’s Event in 2010. Theme for the event is “Together Building Bridges” and the website is www.uccwomenscelebration.org
7. Gail Kinney (NH) expressed appreciation for General Synod’s solidarity with workers when our location was moved in Hartford, CT. She then indicated her concern that this same solidarity may not be extended to all our practices, noting that a number of items in our UCC store carry the “Made in China” label.
8. Steve Kaufman (OH) a representative of the Ministry for God’s Animals, expressed concern for the virtual silence in our churches and denomination related to the abuse of billions of animals in factory farms and the fur industry.
9. Frank Groggett (MA) invited delegates to participate in the “Health Care for All” march in Grand Rapids, which begins at 5:00.
10. Terri LaPage (CA NV, S) indicated the Southern California Nevada Conference is about to begin a search for a new Conference Minister.

Moderator Morgan thanked all Speakout! participants.

3. OUR CHURCH'S WIDER MISSION "CHANGING LIVES" PRESENTATION

Mr. Morgan called upon Ms. Jane Heckles and Ms. Foai Tanuvasa to share the second "Changing Lives" presentation.

4. RECOGNITION OF THOSE RECEIVING AWARDS

Moderator Morgan called upon Ms. Susan Sanders from Wider Church Ministries; Ms. Lydia Veliko from the Office of General Ministries; Mr. Bentley deBardelaben from Justice and Witness Ministries; Ms. Carol Brown from United Black Christians; and Mr. Dick Sparrow from Local Church Ministries to present the following 2009 General Synod Award Recipients:

Wider Church / Global Ministries

Ms. Zayna Thompson McCollum, Volunteer Ministries, Heart of Mission Award
Mr. Greg Bain, Refugee & Immigration Ministries, Heart of Mission Award
Mr. Peter Luckey, Child Sponsorship, Heart of Mission Award
Ms. Robin Knowles Wallace for North Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Columbus, OH, Health and Wholeness, Heart of Mission Award
Mr. Samer Laham, Department of Ecumenical Relations, Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East, Global Ministries, Award of Affirmation
Mr. Edward Matuvhunya, United Church of Christ of Zimbabwe, Global Ministries, Award of Affirmation
Mr. Fe-iloakitau Kaho Tevi, Pacific Conference of Churches, Global Ministries, Award of Affirmation

Office of General Ministries

Ms. Barbara Brown Zikmund, 2009 Avery D. Post Ecumenical Award for excellence in interfaith relations work

Justice and Witness Ministries

Ms. Alice Foltz and Mr. Mike Morse accepted the award for Wellspring United Church of Christ. Wellspring UCC won the award for the Rev. Russell L. Bennett Local Church Award Multiracial, Multicultural, Just Peace, Open and Affirming, and Accessible to All.
The Rev. Dr. Marie M. Furtune received The Rev. Marilyn Adams Moore Social Prophet Award.
The Rev. Dr. Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr. received The Rev. Marilyn Adams Moore Social Prophet Award.
Ms. Meredith Jackson received the Rev. Dr. Robert D. Sherard, Youth and Young Adult Award.
Mr. Kevin Peterson received the Rev. Dr. Robert D. Sherard, Youth and Young Adult Award.

United Black Christians

Mr. Robert Molsberry, Conference Minister of the Ohio Conference
Ms. Maria Price, Euclid, OH
San Marino United Church of Christ, Arthur L. Cribbs Jr., Pastor
Ms. Francine Vinson, Accokeek, MD
Coalition for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Concerns, Ruth Garwood, Executive Director

Local Church Ministries

Ms. Marian R. Plant, Excellence in Teaching
Ms. Lesley Salas, Excellence in Teaching
Mr. Mark Moak, Excellence in Teaching
Ms. Lynn Young, Excellence in Teaching
Mr. Clyde J. Steckel, The Pilgrim Press Mayflower Award for Heritage
Leaven Center of Lyons, MI, Disabilities Ministries

Ms. Mary Larsen, Disabilities Ministries
Mr. Alan Johnson, Mental Illness Network Dell Award
Ms. Julie Peeples, Antoinette Brown Award
Ms. Candita Bauza-Mattos, Antoinette Brown Award
Plymouth Congregational Church, MI, Congregational Vitality
City of Refugee, San Francisco, CA, Congregational Vitality
Honored Laywomen were presented as a group

Moderator Marvin Morgan led those assembled in prayer, giving thanks for the work and witness of these dedicated servants.

5. INTRODUCTION OF THE CANDIDATE FOR EXECUTIVE MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND WITNESS MINISTRIES

Moderator Morgan introduced Mr. John Gregory Davis (NH), Chair of the Justice and Witness Ministries Board, to present the candidate for Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries.

Mr. Davis submitted the name of the Rev. M. Linda Jaramillo for call by election to the position of Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries and as an Officer of the United Church of Christ. Ms. Jaramillo has served as moderator of her local church in Portland, OR; moderator of the Central Pacific Conference; chair of the Conference Minister Search Committee; Assistant Moderator of General Synod; represented the United Church of Christ as a delegate to the World Council of Churches Assembly in Harare, Zimbabwe; and is a champion for justice within the church and in organizations outside the church. She is currently serving her first term as Justice and Witness Ministries' Executive Minister.

Ms. Jaramillo addressed the delegates reminding everyone to preach the gospel at all times. If necessary, use words. Justice is not political, it is theological and we have a responsibility to influence this social culture, not be a product of it. We must not only state what we stand against, we must also explain what we stand for.

Moderator Morgan thanked Ms. Jaramillo.

6. RESOLUTION: ON THE SITUATION OF IRAQI REFUGEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED

Moderator Marvin Morgan called upon Mr. Mark Clark, Chair of the Committee of Reference, to present the resolutions coming directly to the floor of General Synod.

Mr. Clark moved the adoption of the resolution entitled "On the Situation of Iraqi Refugees and Internally Displaced." Discussion followed.

09-GS-11 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod adopts the resolution "On the Situation of Iraqi Refugees and Internally Displaced."

ON THE SITUATION OF IRAQI REFUGEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ and its predecessor bodies, and in ecumenical cooperation with the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Reformed Church in America (and their predecessor bodies) have engaged in Iraq through the United Mission to Iraq, establishing schools and hospitals, and developing relationships with the Iraqi people;

WHEREAS, the invasion and continuing occupation of Iraq have unleashed indescribable instability and insecurity in Iraq, including increased sectarian tensions between Muslims and Christians;

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ's Collegium issued its *Pastoral Letter on the Iraq War* at the Twenty-sixth General Synod (2007), signed by Conference Ministers, Seminary Presidents, and the General Synod itself, a letter that

Lamented the “thousands of precious American lives that have been lost” and altered by injury;

Grieved the tens of thousands of lost Iraqi lives;

Critiqued the high cost of the war and the impact on “education, health care, and the needs of the poor in this land and around the world”;

Confessed the silence of the Church;

Gave thanks for those who have spoken against the violence, for military personnel who have served with honor, for military chaplains who have cared for them, and for churches and organizations that have provided humanitarian relief;

Called for an end to the war and to violence, to acknowledge failure, error, and responsibility, and to seek repentance and peace;

WHEREAS, one of the most significant impacts of the invasion and occupation—and perhaps one of the least reported in the US—is the staggering number of refugees and internally displaced Iraqis, estimated conservatively at 4.5 million (more than 2 million refugees and more than 2 million internally displaced);

WHEREAS, Syria has absorbed more than 1.5 million Iraqi refugees, Jordan, nearly a half a million, and Lebanon between 80,000-100,000, but fewer than 25,000 had been referred for admission to the United States through September 2008, and only approximately 7,000 had been admitted, according to the Department of Homeland Security;

WHEREAS, the “100,000 for Peace” campaign in the United Church of Christ offered prayers for military personnel, petitioned elected representatives with more than 67,000 signatures to end the war and change policies, and raised more than \$140,000 to provide humanitarian relief for Iraqi refugees through partner churches and organizations in the Middle East;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-seventh General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon national ministries, conferences, associations and local churches to continue to raise awareness of the impact of the Iraq war, especially on Iraqis who have been forced from their homes and are living with much uncertainty and hopelessness, either as internally displaced or as refugees;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-seventh General Synod calls upon all settings of the United Church of Christ to advocate for a clearer US recognition of our country's responsibility for the humanitarian crisis the war has caused, and for significant increases and expedited processing to offer resettlement of refugees to the United States;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that United Church of Christ members be encouraged to support the humanitarian relief efforts of its international partners to offer care for Iraqis forced from their homes, now living in other parts of Iraq, and in Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan,

AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the United Church of Christ affirm its commitment to refugee resettlement, and its support for the rights of refugees scattered throughout the Middle East and all over the world to safe repatriation or resettlement with compensation for their losses.

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.

IMPLEMENTATION

Wider Church Ministries is asked to implement this resolution.

7. RESOLUTION: A CALL TO REAFFIRM THE IMPORTANCE OF ECUMENICAL COMMITMENTS AND INITIATIVES IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Mr. Clark moved the adoption of the resolution “A Call to Reaffirm the Importance of Ecumenical Commitments and Initiatives in the United Church of Christ.” Mr. Clark called on Mr. Lee Barrett to speak to the resolution, and moved he be granted voice without vote.

09-GS-12 VOTED BY CONSENSUS: The Twenty-seventh General Synod grants voice without vote to Mr. Lee Barrett.

09-GS-13 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod adopts the resolution “A Call to Reaffirm the Importance of Ecumenical Commitments and Initiatives in the United Church of Christ.”

A CALL TO REAFFIRM THE IMPORTANCE OF ECUMENICAL COMMITMENTS AND INITIATIVES IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WHEREAS, the Preamble to the Constitution of the United Church of Christ declares that the new denomination was created “in order to express more fully the oneness in Christ of all churches comprising it;” and

WHEREAS, that same Preamble announces that the United Church of Christ “acknowledges as kindred in Christ all who share the confession” that “Jesus Christ is sole head of the church;” and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United Church of Christ stipulates that a responsibility of the General Synod is to “encourage connections with other communions and when appropriate to authorize and guide negotiations with them, looking toward formal union;” and

WHEREAS, the oneness of the church universal is a gift from God, grounded in the common participation of all believers in Christ, and therefore also in one another (see 1 Cor. 12:27); and

WHEREAS, the church in every time and place is one by virtue of its communion with Christ; and

WHEREAS, the unity of the Church in every time and place is made visible in baptismal and Eucharistic communion and in common proclamation and service; and

WHEREAS, the individual faith traditions of Christians need the mutually affirming and admonishing witness of one another in order for any of them to appreciate the richness and fullness of God’s grace (see 1 Cor. 12:15-21); and

WHEREAS, the unity graciously established by God should be concretely manifested in the interactions and interconnections of the particular historic faith traditions of Christianity; and

WHEREAS, participation in God’s mission of establishing peace and justice on earth requires ecumenical co-operation;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-Seventh General Synod of the United Church of Christ reaffirms the centrality of its ecumenical mission to be a united and uniting church.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United Church of Christ shall continue and strengthen the various ministries that make the pursuit of this ecumenical vision possible.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the United Church of Christ make its historic commitment to be a united and uniting church a priority in all its decision-making.

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.

IMPLEMENTATION:

The relevant ministries of the Office of General Ministries, particularly the Minister for Ecumenical Relations, are requested to be the primary implementers of this resolution. In addition, all members of the United Church of Christ are urged to live out this mandate.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Assistant Moderator John Humphrey explained the reporting process for committees. He then thanked the Committee Process Facilitators: Ms. Susan Henderson (CAC), Mr. Dennis Frische-Mouri (IK), and Ms. Susan Townsley (CONN). The team was staffed by Mr. David Anderson (PNW). All were asked to stand and be recognized. Mr. Humphrey then asked all Committee Chairs to rise and be recognized.

9. ADMENMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Mr. Humphrey called upon Mr. Rich Fluechtling, Chair of Committee One. Mr. Fluechtling reminded the delegates that proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ were published at least two months prior to General Synod. Constitutional amendments require a 2/3 majority to be voted by Synod and then, before the next Synod, must be ratified by 2/3 of the Conferences before being declared effective and in force by the Executive Council or the General Synod. Bylaw amendments require a 2/3 majority of the Synod to be adopted. Any Bylaw amendment contingent upon a Constitutional amendment becomes effective when the Constitutional amendment is so declared.

Mr. Fluechtling moved the adoption of the proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ (Ministry Issues) as submitted by the Executive Council and as circulated in advance of General Synod as required.

Mr. Fluechtling reminded delegates that Ministry Issues was the topic of a Pronouncement adopted by the Twenty-fifth General Synod in Atlanta, GA. These amendments, if adopted, will be inserted and will revise the main text of the Constitution and Bylaws in accord with the Proposals for Action adopted with the Pronouncement. General Synod Committee One is proposing changes to the proposed amendments submitted by the Executive Council. General Synod 27 will first vote whether or not to include the Committee One's proposals and then vote on the proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws.

Mr. Fluechtling then moved the Committee's proposed amendments to the amendments proposed by Executive Council.

Mr. Robb Kojima (HI) moved to amend by adding the words "or covenantal Association" after the phrase in "geographic area" in Paragraph 38. The motion was declared out of order.

09-GS-14 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod adopts the changes proposed by Committee One and amends the Proposed “Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ (Ministry Issues)” as submitted by Executive Council for consideration by the General Synod.

Mr. Fleuchting then directed delegates to the main motion found in the resolution entitled “Final Draft Bylaws” now amended, and moved its adoption.

Mr. Phil Corr (IOWA) moved to amend by deleting Roman Numeral IV under Ministry Issues, entitled Proposals for Action: The Council for Racial Ministries. The motion was ruled out of order because it referred to background materials.

Mr. Bob Baur (MOMS) moved to amend by adding “is the normative path of this plan” to Paragraph 104 after the words “and a Master of Divinity degree.” Discussion followed.

Ms. Carol Stanley (PNW) moved the previous question.

09-GS-15 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod votes to close debate.

09-GS-16 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod defeats the proposed amendment.

Mr. Patti Aurand (IOWA) moved to amend by adding the words “is an encouraged path” following the words “and a Master of Divinity degree, or its equivalent” in Paragraph 104.

The chair acknowledged the “order of the day” was approaching and questioned the delegates’ desire to continue debate.

16 Ms. Courtney Klamar (OHIO) moved to extend debate for ten minutes.

09-GS-17 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod votes to extend debate for ten minutes.

Following additional discussion, Mr. David Spollette (LCM) moved the previous question.

09-GS-18 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod votes to close debate.

09-GS-19 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod defeats the proposed amendment.

Mr. David Spollette (LCM) moved the previous question.

09-GS-20 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod votes to close debate.

09-GS-21 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod votes to approve the resolution “Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ,” as amended.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Amended sections to the Constitution:

ARTICLE VI. THE MINISTRY

20. The United Church of Christ recognizes that God calls the whole Church and every member to participate in and extend the ministry of Jesus Christ by witnessing to the Gospel in church and society. The United Church of Christ seeks to undergird the ministry of its members by nurturing faith, calling forth gifts, and equipping members for Christian service.

21. The United Church of Christ recognizes that God calls certain of its members to various forms of ministry in and on behalf of the church for which ecclesiastical authorization is required. Recognizing God's call, the ecclesiastical authorization is granted by an Association through the rite of ordination, through commissioning, licensing, granting either ordained ministerial standing or ordained ministerial partner standing and other acts of authorization.

22. Ordination is the rite whereby the United Church of Christ through an Association, in cooperation with the person and a Local Church of the United Church of Christ, recognizes and authorizes that member whom God has called to ordained ministry, and sets that person apart by prayer and the laying on of hands. By this rite ordained ministerial standing and status as an Ordained Ministerial Partner is conferred and authorization given to perform the duties and exercise the prerogatives of ordained ministry in the United Church of Christ.

23. An Ordained Minister of the United Church of Christ is one of its members who has been called by God and ordained to preach and teach the gospel, to administer the sacraments and rites of the Church, and to exercise pastoral care and leadership.

24. Ordained ministerial standing is an ongoing covenant of mutual accountability, as described in Paragraph 25, which recognizes and continues the authorization of that person to perform the duties and exercise the prerogatives of ordained ministry. Ordained ministerial standing in the United Church of Christ is granted by and held in an Association in cooperation with a local church and confers voting membership in the Association.

25. The Call of an Ordained Minister or Ordained Ministerial Partner to a Local Church establishes a covenantal relationship among the Ordained Minister or Ordained Ministerial Partner, the Local Church, and the United Church of Christ as represented by an Association. The Call of an Ordained Minister or Ordained Ministerial Partner to other forms of ministry recognized by an Association of the United Church of Christ establishes a covenantal relationship among the Ordained Minister or Ordained Ministerial Partner, the calling body, the United Church of Christ as represented by an Association and the Local Church where the Ordained Minister or Ordained Ministerial Partner is a member.

26. Commissioning is the act whereby the United Church of Christ through an Association, in cooperation with a person and a Local Church of the United Church of Christ, recognizes and authorizes that member whom God has called to a specific church-related ministry which is recognized by that Association, but not requiring ordination or licensing. By this act the status of Commissioned Minister is conferred and authorization granted to perform duties necessary to and for the specific ministry, and voting membership in that Association is granted.

27. A Commissioned Minister in the United Church of Christ is one of its members who has been called by God and commissioned for a specific church-related ministry.

28. Licensing is the act whereby the United Church of Christ through an Association, in cooperation with a person and a Local Church of the United Church of Christ, recognizes and authorizes that member whom God has called to perform specified duties in a designated Local Church or within that Association, mainly preaching and conducting services of worship, for a designated time within a covenant of mutual accountability that includes appropriate supervision and guidance of that Association. The license may be renewed. Voting membership in that Association is granted.

29. A Licensed Minister of the United Church of Christ is one of its members whom God has called and who has been recognized and authorized by an Association to perform specified duties in a designated Local Church or within that Association, mainly preaching and conducting services of worship, for a designated time within a covenant of mutual accountability that includes appropriate supervision and guidance of that Association. The license may be renewed.

30. A Member in Discernment is a member of the United Church of Christ who has been called by God and who is, in covenant with that member's Local Church and Association, engaging in a time of discernment of that call and preparation for ministry in response to that call.

ARTICLE VIII. ASSOCIATIONS AND CONFERENCES

37. Associations and Conferences are bodies organized on a territorial basis to perform functions in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ.

Associations

38. An Association is that body within a Conference of the United Church of Christ which is composed of all Local Churches in a geographical area, all Ordained Ministers holding standing or ordained ministerial partner standing therein, all Commissioned Ministers and Licensed Ministers in that Association.

39. Subsequent to the initial organization of Associations in the United Church of Christ, the boundaries of any new Association, or any adjustment of boundaries between Associations, shall be determined by the Associations concerned with the approval of the Conference or Conferences involved. The standing of an Association as a body of the United Church of Christ is determined by the Conference in which it is located.

40. An Association is that body which determines, confers, and certifies to the standing of the Local Churches of the United Church of Christ within its area.

41. An Association is that body which grants, certifies to, transfers and terminates ordained ministerial standing or ordained ministerial partner standing in the United Church of Christ.

42. An Association may retain or secure its own charter, and adopt its own constitution, bylaws and other rules which it deems essential to its own welfare and not inconsistent with this Constitution and the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ.

43. An Association is related to the General Synod through its Conference.

44. When an Association meets, its voting membership includes the lay delegates selected by and representing the Local Churches of that Association, all Ordained Ministers holding standing or ordained ministerial partner standing therein, all Commissioned Ministers and Licensed Ministers of that Association.

45. Meetings of the Association are held annually and at such other times as may be necessary for the discharge of its responsibilities.

Conferences

46. A Conference is that body of the United Church of Christ which is composed of all Local Churches in a geographical area, all Ordained Ministers holding standing or ordained ministerial partner standing in its Associations or in the Conference itself when acting as an Association, all Commissioned Ministers and Licensed Ministers in its Associations.

47. Subsequent to the initial organization of Conferences in the United Church of Christ, the boundaries of any new Conference, or any adjustment of boundaries between Conferences, shall be determined by the Conferences concerned with the approval of the General Synod. The standing of a Conference as a body of the United Church of Christ is determined by the General Synod.

48. A Conference may retain or secure its own charter, and adopt its own constitution, bylaws and other rules which it deems essential to its own welfare and not inconsistent with this Constitution and the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ.

49. A Conference is related to the General Synod as described in the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ.

50. When a Conference meets, its voting membership includes lay delegates selected by and representing the Local Churches of that Conference, all Ordained Ministers holding standing or ordained ministerial

partner standing in its Associations or in the Conference itself when acting as an Association, all Commissioned Ministers-and Licensed Ministers in its Associations.

51. Meetings of the Conference are held annually and at such other times as may be necessary for the discharge of its responsibilities.

Conferences Acting as Associations

52. A Conference may exercise the functions of an Association when they are delegated to it by an Association or where no Association exists.

ARTICLE XII. AMENDMENTS

The Constitution

74. Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by a Conference, the General Synod or the Executive Council. Such proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing to the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ at least three months prior to a meeting of the General Synod to which they are to be presented. At least two months prior to the meeting of the General Synod, the General Minister and President shall transmit such proposed amendments to the delegates, to the Conferences and to the Local Churches. Adoption of an amendment to the Constitution shall require a two-thirds affirmative vote of those present and voting in the General Synod and, before the next regular meeting of the General Synod, an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Conferences. If so approved the General Synod, if in session, or the Executive Council, shall declare the amendment adopted and in force.

The Bylaws

75. Amendments to the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ may be proposed by an Association, a Conference, the General Synod, or the Executive Council. Such proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing to the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ at least three months prior to the meeting of the General Synod to which they are to be presented. At least two months prior to the meeting of the General Synod, the General Minister and President shall transmit such proposed amendments to the delegates, to the Conferences and to the Local Churches. Any Bylaw that is contingent upon a

Constitutional provision shall not be effective until after the Constitutional provision is ratified and declared in force. Adoption of an amendment to the Bylaws shall require a two-thirds affirmative vote of those present and voting in the General Synod, and shall be effective upon adoption unless otherwise set forth in the vote.

The General Synod declared the original Constitution of the United Church of Christ in force June, 1961, upon ratification of 2/3 of the Synods of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and by 2/3 of the Congregational Christian churches voting.

Amended sections to the Bylaws:

Members in Discernment

101. A member of a United Church of Christ wishing to explore God's call to ministry, and the potential of that call leading to authorized ministry (ordained, commissioned or licensed), requests, along with the member's local church, to enter a Covenant of Discernment with the Association.

102. The Committee on the Ministry of the member's Association interviews the member to decide whether to join with the member and the local church in a covenant of discernment. The goal of discernment is to determine whether the member is called to authorized ministry, what the specific character of that ministry might be, and, if authorization is appropriate, what steps are to be taken toward authorization. Normally a covenant of discernment leading to authorization is expected to be for not less than two years.

103. The Association and the local church are in a mutual covenant with the Member in Discernment to offer support, counsel, and direction during this time of decision making and preparation.

104. A Member in Discernment who is called to authorized ministry will follow a plan of preparation for that ministry which has been prepared with the Association Committee on the Ministry. With respect to ordained ministry, a bachelor's degree and Master of Divinity may be included in the plan.

Ordained Ministry

105. Not more than six months prior to the completion of theological preparation for authorization, a Member in Discernment preparing for the ordained ministry applies with his or her Local Church to its Association for approval as a candidate for ordination. If the service of ordination is to be performed within an Association other than that of the Member, the procedure, including that described in the following paragraph, is initiated by that Association after consultation with the Association which is in covenant with the Member in Discernment.

106. The Committee on the Ministry of the Association examines the Member in Discernment with respect to Christian faith; character; ability to do the work expected; preparation to meet the responsibilities of the office; educational and theological attainments; and knowledge of the history, polity, and practices of the United Church of Christ. If, following this examination, the committee is satisfied with the fitness of the Member in Discernment, it makes an affirmative recommendation to the Association. In turn, upon the receipt of this recommendation, the Association may opt for further examination or proceed immediately to authorize the ordination, subject to a call recognized by the Association.

Ordained Ministerial Standing

109. An Ordained Minister moving from the bounds of one Association to another applies for a transfer of ordained ministerial standing to the new Association.

110. An Ordained Minister engaged in local church ministry has standing in the Association in which the Local Church served has standing. An Ordained Minister engaged in other than local church ministry has standing in the Association where his or her Local Church membership is held.

Ordained Ministers from Other Denominations

131. The Committee on the Ministry of the Association examines the applicant as to his or her abilities, reasons for desiring to enter the ordained ministry of the United Church of Christ, educational and theological attainments, knowledge of the history, polity, and practices of the United Church of Christ, and Christian faith and experience. If the applicant is found to be qualified, the Association grants Privilege of Call, thereby commending said applicant for placement in the United Church of Christ. Privilege of Call shall be granted for a period of one year and may be renewed. After accepting a call, the Ordained Minister applies for ordained ministerial standing in the United Church of Christ to the Association of which the Local Church extending the call is a part.

Commissioned Ministers

134. A Member in Discernment seeking initial recognition and authorization as a Commissioned Minister applies with his or her Local Church to the Association of which that church is a member.

135. The Committee on the Ministry of the Association examines the Member in Discernment with respect to Christian faith, character, ability to do the work expected and preparation to meet the responsibilities of the office to be filled, and make their recommendation of fitness to the Association. If upon acceptance of the recommendation or upon further examination and decision by the Association itself, the applicant is found to be qualified, commissioning thereby is authorized.

137. A Commissioned Minister is listed separately from Ordained Ministers and from Licensed Ministers on the rolls of the Association which has commissioned him or her. A Commissioned Minister is eligible for service only in lay categories for all positions referred to in the Bylaws.

141. A Commissioned Minister who retires from service as a Commissioned Minister may be recognized by the Association as a Retired Commissioned Minister of the United Church of Christ. Voting membership in that Association is thereby granted. Such recognition is regularly reviewed.

Licensed Ministers

142. A Member in Discernment seeking recognition and authorization as a Licensed Minister applies with his or her Local Church to the Association of which that church is a member.

143. The Committee on the Ministry of the Association examines the Member in Discernment with respect to Christian faith; character; ability to do the work expected; preparation to meet the responsibilities of the office; educational and theological attainments; and knowledge of the history,

polity, and practices of the United Church of Christ. If the applicant is found to be qualified, a license is granted by the Association for not more than one year to serve in a designated Local Church or within that Association. Following a review by the Committee on the Ministry, the license may be renewed annually for two more years after which the Association may grant the license for a time determined to be appropriate.

144. At the request of the Local Church which the person serves, the Association may grant the Licensed Minister the right to administer the sacraments and rites of the Church for this Local Church.

145. A Licensed Minister is listed separately from Ordained Ministers and from Commissioned Ministers on the rolls of the Association which has licensed him or her. A Licensed Minister is eligible for service only in lay categories for all positions referred to in the Bylaws.

146. A Licensed Minister who retires from service as a Licensed Minister may be recognized by the Association as a Retired Licensed Minister of the United Church of Christ. Voting membership in that Association is thereby granted. Such recognition is regularly reviewed.

Calling, Installing and Terminating a Pastor

148. In filling a vacancy or in securing pastoral services during the period of a vacancy, the committee of the Local Church, through its Conference Minister, obtains counsel and access to the services of the “Search and Call” process of the United Church of Christ.

149. The committee of a Local Church requests the Conference Minister to secure relevant information about any Ordained Minister, Ordained Ministerial Partner, or Licensed Minister whom it wishes to consider or who requests to be considered for the vacancy.

150. Any Ordained Minister, Ordained Ministerial Partner, or Licensed Minister may confer with the Conference Minister concerning a pastoral vacancy. At the Ordained Minister’s request or at the request of the Ordained Ministerial Partner, his or her name shall be submitted by the Conference Minister for consideration by the committee of any Local Church where there is a pastoral vacancy.

153. In the call the terms of the pastoral relationship are stated, including the agreement of the Local Church to participate in the pension fund on the pastor’s behalf. The pastor, the Local Church, Association Committee on Ministry, and the Conference Minister should each receive a copy of the call. The Conference Minister shall inform the Office of General Ministries when the call has been accepted.

154. When an Ordained Minister or Licensed Minister accepts a call to a Local Church, the Minister and the church join in requesting the Association to arrange for a service of installation or recognition.

Ministerial Accountability

157. All authorized ministers of the United Church of Christ are active partners in a covenant of mutual accountability with their Association of standing, their Local Church, and, in the case of those serving in settings other than a local church, with their calling body. Such a covenant includes, but is not limited to, mutual support and care, continued discernment of call, and lifelong learning.

158. All authorizations for ordained ministerial standing, for ordained ministerial partner standing, and for commissioned and licensed ministry granted by an Association are subject to oversight by that Association, including periodic consultation and review.

Meetings of the General Synod

186. Expenses of meetings of the General Synod including the travel expense of Conference voting delegates as negotiated with the Conferences shall be borne by the General Synod. Other expenses of Conference delegates are the responsibility of the Conferences. Expenses of Covenanted Ministry voting delegates shall be borne by the Ministry they represent, excepting Conference Ministers whose expenses shall be the responsibility of their Conference. Expenses of Executive Council members named in paragraph 224a–d and 225b–c shall be borne by the Executive Council. Expenses of members named in paragraph 224e–l and paragraph 225d–f will be borne by the entity from which they were nominated to the Executive Council. Expenses of associate delegates shall be borne by the Conference or Covenanted Ministry they represent.

Membership of the General Synod

188. **Voting Delegates** Voting delegates consist of Conference delegates, the Members of the Boards of Directors of the Covenanted Ministries elected by the General Synod as specified in paragraph 191, and

other delegates as these are hereinafter defined. Each voting delegate to General Synod shall be entitled to a single vote at the General Synod.

200. Nominating Committee The Nominating Committee shall consist of 27 members elected as follows:

a) Eighteen members will be nominated from a pool provided by the Conferences, as follows: At least nine months before each regular meeting of the General Synod, the Executive Council shall invite each Conference not currently represented on the Nominating Committee to submit the name of an Ordained Minister or a person with ordained ministerial partner standing and the name of a layperson for possible membership on the Nominating Committee as an at-large member. The Executive Council shall submit 12 of these names, (six Ordained Ministers or persons with ordained ministerial partner standing and six laypersons) to the General Synod. From these the General Synod shall elect three Ordained Ministers or persons with ordained ministerial partner standing and three laypersons to serve on the Nominating Committee for terms of six years. Not more than one of the at-large members of the Nominating Committee shall be from any one Conference. Notwithstanding this requirement, if a member of the Nominating Committee moves to a Conference from which there is another member of the Committee currently serving, the member moving to the Conference currently served by another member shall continue to serve as a member of the Nominating Committee until the end of the biennium. The position on the Nominating Committee held by the member who moved becomes vacant at the end of the biennium during which the above change in Conference occurs. Nominations for these positions will be accepted from the floor provided they fully comply with the criteria for the contested positions.

b) Nine members will be nominated from a pool provided by the following groups: the Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries; the Council for American Indian Ministry; the Council for Hispanic Ministries; Ministers for Racial, Social and Economic Justice; Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries; United Black Christians; the United Church of Christ Coalition for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns; UCC Disabilities Ministries; and the Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries. At least nine months before each regular meeting of the General Synod, the Executive Council shall invite each of the nine groups whose representative's term on the Nominating Committee is about to expire, to submit the names of an Ordained Minister or a person with ordained ministerial partner standing and a layperson for possible membership on the Nominating Committee. The Executive Council shall submit three of these names to the General Synod for election to the Nominating Committee so that, in each biennium, the nine representatives from these groups shall include five lay persons and four Ordained Ministers. Their Conference affiliations will not affect the determination of the Conference affiliation of the at-large members elected in accordance with paragraph 200. (a).

c) A member of the Nominating Committee who has served a full term shall not be eligible for re-election until a biennium has elapsed. Terms of members shall begin at the close of the General Synod at which the members have been elected and continue to the close of the third regular General Synod after their election. The Chairperson of the Nominating Committee shall be named by the Executive Council from the members of the Nominating Committee within six months after each regular meeting of the General Synod.

The Executive Council of the General Synod

224. Members, nominated by the General Synod Nominating Committee, and elected by the General Synod as members of the Executive Council, shall include:

a) Thirty-nine members, one from each Conference, elected by the General Synod for a term of six years, terms beginning at the end of the General Synod. Each Conference provides a name according to criteria determined by the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee confirms each name before nominating that person to the General Synod. The expectation is that those elected have or are to have a relationship with the governing board of their respective Conferences. A person elected to the Executive Council from a Conference shall resign when moving to another Conference.

b) One member from the Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries elected by the General Synod for one term of six years, beginning at the next meeting of the Executive Council after election. The General

Synod Nominating Committee nominates this person after submission of the name by the Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries according to the criteria determined by the Nominating Committee.

c) Eight members, one from each of the historically under-represented groups:

- Council for American Indian Ministry
- Council for Hispanic Ministries
- Ministers for Racial, Social and Economic Justice
- Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries
- United Black Christians
- United Church of Christ Coalition for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Concerns
- UCC Disabilities Ministries
- Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries;

d) One high school age youth, elected at large to serve a two-year term, eligible for re-election to a two-year term.

e) Sixteen members, four from the Board of Directors of each Covenanted Ministry, nominated by the respective Board of Directors, for a term of two years and not to exceed three terms.

f) One representative of the Council of Theological Education, nominated by the Presidents of the Seminaries of the United Church of Christ for a term of two years and not to exceed two consecutive terms.

g) One representative of the Council for Higher Education, nominated by that Council for a term of two years and not to exceed two consecutive terms.

h) One representative from the Historical Council, nominated by that Council for a term of two years and not to exceed two consecutive terms.

i) One representative from the Council for Ecumenism, nominated by that Council for a term of two years and not to exceed two consecutive terms.

j) One member of the Board of Directors of the United Church Foundation, Inc., nominated by the Board of Directors, for a term of two years and not to exceed three terms.

k) One member of the Board of Trustees of The Pension Boards–United Church of Christ, nominated by the respective Board of Trustees, for a term of two years and not to exceed three terms.

l) Of the members elected to the Executive Council, one-third shall be ordained ministers, who may include persons with ordained ministerial partner standing, one-third laymen, and one-third laywomen. Not fewer than twenty percent of the members are to be youth or young adults; where possible representation shall be equally divided between (a) youth, persons of high school age, and (b) young adults, persons graduated from high school, or over 19 years of age, but under the age of 30.

m) The General Synod Nominating Committee nominates these persons after submission of names by the respective group, according to the procedures established in ¶201-206 of these Bylaws, and criteria determined by the Nominating Committee. In order to fulfill its responsibilities to ensure that the membership of the Executive Council reflects the diversity to which the United Church is committed, the Nominating Committee may ask for another name to be submitted by any group.

n) Terms of office, unless otherwise designated in these Bylaws, shall be for six years and shall commence at the close of the General Synod at which the person is elected and qualified and shall terminate at the close of the General Synod in which a successor is elected and qualified. Members shall be divided into three classes of approximately equal numbers to be elected at each General Synod. No elected member who has served a full term shall be elected again until at least two years have elapsed. Terms for Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries members, and high school youth, shall be two years, with eligibility for re-election.

233. The Executive Council shall be an incorporated body in order to ensure that it may effectively and expeditiously perform all legal functions of the General Synod. The membership of the Corporation shall consist of those persons described in Section 224-225 of the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ, who shall be elected or affirmed in the manner therein provided and who shall have the right to vote only to the extent granted by such sections. Those members shall also be the Directors of the Corporation. The Corporation shall have such officers as required by law and as otherwise elected by the

Directors. The Corporation may adopt for its government and the management of its affairs bylaws and rules not inconsistent with its Articles of Incorporation nor with the Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and regulations of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ.

10. SONG BREAK

Mr. Ken Medema led everyone in a joyous time of singing. His theme was “Pope John and his shoes of red” which referred to the previous evening’s celebration of Rev. John Thomas’ ministry, and the presentation to Mr. Thomas of red shoes reminiscent of the red shoes the Pope wears.

11. COLLEGIUM REPORT

Assistant Moderator Humphrey called upon Mr. John Thomas, General Minister and President; Ms. Cally Rogers-Witte, Executive Minister for Wider Church Ministries; and Ms. Linda Jaramillo, Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries to present the first Collegium report.

The Collegium officers reported we are living in interesting, challenging, uncertain, and promising times. They conveyed both appreciation and encouragement for United Church of Christ ministries. They encouraged all to be active in this global mission church, immersing ourselves in worldwide friendship and community-building.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Humphrey called upon Ms. Edith Guffey, Associate General Minister, for announcements.

Ms. Guffey reminded everyone of the Local Church Ministries banquet.

Friday evening’s offering was \$10,000 and will be directed to the Michigan Conference’s Vitality and Mission Team.

Sunday’s worship offering was \$28,968 and is designated for Our Church’s Wider Mission.

Mr. Ken Medema will provide music this evening, one half hour prior to our next plenary session.

13. RECESS

Mr. Humphrey declared the third plenary of the Twenty-seventh General Synod to be in recess.

Monday evening, June 29, 2009

Fourth Plenary Session

1. CALL TO ORDER

Assistant Moderator Jane Tedder called the fourth business session to order at 7:30 PM.

2. SPEAKOUTS!

Ms. Tedder called upon the following Speakout! participants:

1. Jan Dashner (IS) is a military chaplain stationed in Japan. She gave thanks for the support received from the wider church family at this Synod and asked for prayers for peace.
2. Dorothy Shelly (PSE) thanked professional chaplains and counselors and acknowledged the Council for Health & Human Services Ministry.
3. Craig Rennebohm (PNW) is a chaplain in Seattle who is working with the homeless and mentally ill. The Mental Illness Network and Disabilities Ministry is waiting for welcome and care. He plans to work with churches and conferences to minister to people with these challenges.
4. Steve Ohnsman (PSE) enjoyed Sacred Conversations on Race, but would like us not to schedule sessions on Sunday morning because it impedes worship attendance in local congregations. It also imposes on workers who must work to serve us.
5. Mark Stevenson and Sandy Koenig (CONN) requested prayers for Conference Minister

- Davida Crabtree and family who could not attend this Synod due to a family illness.
6. John Lionberger (IL) Invited everyone to join the Renewal in the Wilderness Ministry for fun and intentional spiritual renewal.
 7. Riess Potterveld (PC) noted that Lancaster Theological Seminary has new resources for your congregations on line at lancasterseminary.edu
 8. Daniel Hatch (HI) asked everyone to please consider supporting Inanda Seminary in South Africa through Global Missionaries. He encouraged everyone to go to www.inanda.org and consider contributing to the scholarship fund.
 9. John Gage (CONN) invited everyone to meet with the Coalition for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Concerns to discuss emerging issues.
 10. Sharon Ellis Davis (IL) and Matthew Emery (IL) stated the Illinois Conference Minister Search Committee will soon be ready to accept applications.

Ms. Tedder thanked all Speakout! participants.

3. OUR CHURCH'S WIDER MISSION "CHANGING LIVES" PRESENTATION

Assistant Moderator Jane Tedder called upon Ms. Jane Heckles and Mr. Charles Buck for Our Church's Wider Mission "Changing Lives" presentation.

4. ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE MINISTER OF LOCAL CHURCH MINISTRIES

Ms. Tedder explained the process for the elections of General Minister and President, Executive Minister for Local Church Ministries and the Executive Minister for Justice and Witness Ministries.

Ms. Tedder then called upon Ms. Marilyn Pagan-Banks, Chair of the Board of Directors of Local Church Ministries.

Ms. Pagan-Banks moved that the Rev. Stephen L. Sterner be called by election by the General Synod of the United Church of Christ to a four-year term as the Executive Minister of Local Church Ministries and an Officer of the United Church of Christ.

09-GS-22 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod calls the Rev. Stephen L. Sterner to a four year term as the Executive Minister of Local Church Ministries and an Officer of the United Church of Christ.

5. ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND WITNESS MINISTRIES

Ms. Tedder called upon Mr. John Gregory-Davis, Chair of the Board of Directors of Justice and Witness Ministries.

Mr. Gregory-Davis moved that the Rev. M. Linda Jaramillo be called by election by the General Synod of the United Church of Christ to a four year term as Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries and an Officer of the United Church of Christ.

09-GS-23 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod calls the Rev. M. Linda Jaramillo to a four year term as the Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries and an Officer of the United Church of Christ.

6. ELECTION OF GENERAL MINISTER AND PRESIDENT

Assistant Moderator Tedder called upon Mr. Jim Moos, Chair of the Executive Council.

Mr. Moos moved that the Rev. Geoffrey A. Black be called by election by the General Synod of the United Church of Christ to a four year term as General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ.

09-GS-24 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod calls the Rev. Geoffrey A. Black to a four year term as the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ.

Mr. Sterner, Ms. Jaramillo and Mr. Black were joined on stage by Mr. John Thomas, Ms. Edith Guffey and Ms. Cally Rogers-Witte. Mr. Black thanked everyone for the affirmation, kind support and promises of prayerful participation and advice he has already received. He looks forward to sharing in leadership with other members of the Collegium.

Mr. Thomas then led the assembly in the “God of Grace” prayer given by Mr. Dale Bishop as he left the Collegium six years ago.

“We come to you in times of endings and beginnings, grateful, so grateful, for your presence and companionship in the times in between. At this moment of beginnings, we ask that you pour out your love upon these five friends of your and of ours. In their separateness, in their individuality, save them from the illusion of loneliness—for no one who loves you is ever alone. Save them from the twin temptations of self-importance and self-blame. In their moments of isolation and doubts, break into their lives afresh with a love that reminds them who they are—your beloved children.

As a Collegium of officers, grace them with friendship, with honesty infused with affection, with a sense of humor that enables them to tell the difference between what is solemn and what is serious. Give them joy, and remind them, even and especially in the grimmest of moments, of the hope that is in you.

And, for the rest of us who have chosen them to lead us, grant patience and a respect that transcends disagreement. May we accept their leadership gracefully and graciously, loving them even when they disappoint us. We pray for our beloved church. May it be a faithful instrument of your mission, a mission that brings good news to a world that thirsts to hear it.

We pray in the name of the One whose name we, as Christians, claim, the One who tells us who we are, the One who saves us and redeems us, our brother and our friend, Jesus. Amen.”

7. ELECTION OF MODERATORS, NOMINEES FOR THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, AND NOMINEES FOR THE BOARDS OF DIRECTORS OF LOCAL CHURCH MINISTRIES, WIDER CHURCH MINISTERIES, JUSTICE AND WITNESS MINISTRIES, AND THE OFFICE OF GENERAL MINISTRIES

Ms. Sharon Ellis Davis, Vice Chair of the Executive Council led the delegates through the uncontested elections.

Ms. Davis moved that the Twenty-seventh General Synod elect the nominees for the Moderators, the nominees for the Executive Council, and the nominees for the Boards of Directors of Local Church Ministries, Wider Church Ministries, Justice and Witness Ministries, and the Office of General Ministries.

09-GS-25 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod elects the Moderators, nominees for the Executive Council, and the nominees for the Boards of Directors of Local Church Ministries, Wider Church Ministries, Justice and Witness Ministries, and the Office of General Ministries.

**TWENTY-SEVENTH GENERAL SYNOD
SLATE OF CANDIDATES**

Executive Council

Martha Ann Baumer (Pension Boards)
Deborah Blood (Wider Church Ministries)
Walter John Boris (Council of Conference Ministers)
Anita Bradshaw (Office of General Ministries)
Dorinda Broadnax (Southeast Conference)
Stephen Camp (Council of Conference Ministers)
Reuben Cedino (New York Conference)
Elizabeth Clement (Office of General Ministries)
Davida Foy Crabtree (Council of Conference Ministers)
Megan Culbertson (Iowa Conference)
John Deckenback (Council of Conference Ministers)
Jason Donnelly (Historical Council)
Harold Drury (Local Church Ministries)
Roddy Dunkerson (Council of Conference Ministers)
Kelly Forbuth (Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries)
Rudolf (Rudy) Gruenke (Illinois Conference)
Ruth Harvey (Justice and Witness Ministries)
Debra Joseph (Local Church Ministries)
Lana Kaopua (Hawaii Conference)
Stephen Keithahn (Missouri Mid-South Conference)
Pierson Kemp (Office of General Ministries)
Hyo-Jung Kim (Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries)
ElizaBeth MacCullagh (At-Large High School)
Ione Mailo (California, Nevada Southern Conference)
Corliss Marsh (Wider Church Ministries)
Robert Molsberry (Council of Conference Ministers)
Heather Moody (Massachusetts Conference)
Mary Ann Neevel (Wider Church Ministries)
Ronald Patterson (Florida Conference)
Leslie Penrose (Justice and Witness Ministries)
David Saetre (Council for Higher Education)
Margaret Schemmel (Local Church Ministries)
Christine Shesler (Central Atlantic Conference)
Kaji Spellman (Office of General Ministries)
David Spollett (Local Church Ministries)
Jane Tedder (Kansas-Oklahoma Conference)
Fredd Ward (Justice and Witness Ministries)
A. Rebecca West (Justice and Witness Ministries)
Arlinda Wickland (Vermont Conference)
Douglas Wooten (Southern Conference)

Justice and Witness Ministries

Rosanne Anderson (South Dakota Conference)
Aqueelah As-Salaam (Florida Conference)
Geoffrey Brace (Penn Northeast Conference)
Gordon Crouch (New Hampshire Conference)
Martha Cruz (Pension Boards)
Mike Denton (Council of Conference Ministers)
Julian Deshazier (Council of Racial and Ethnic Ministries)
Kathryn Frazier (Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries)
DeSorrow Golden (South Central Conference)
Alice Harper-Jones (Illinois Conference)
Ruth Harvey (Penn Central Conference)
Caitlin Kawaguchi (At-Large High School)
Vy Nguyen (Disciples of Christ)
Christo Ownes (Massachusetts Conference)
Amelie Sell (Pennsylvania Southeast Conference)
Ken Siladi (Council of Conference Ministers)
Lynne Smouse Lopez (Central Pacific Conference)
Lewis Tate, Jr. (United Black Christians)
Jeannie Thompson (Hawaii Conference)
Kiely Todd Roska (Minnesota Conference)
Jacquelyne Tyler (Missouri Mid-South Conference)
Melissa Woo (Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries)
Dale Yurs (Wisconsin Conference)

Local Church Ministries

Jacquie Young (Penn Central Conference)
Marja Coons-Torn (Council of Conference Ministers)
Tim Downs (Council of Conference Ministers)
John Gilman (At-Large High School)
Jean Golden (New York Conference)
Jane Haubert (California, Nevada Southern Conference)
William Imes (Council for Higher Education)
Meredith Jackson (California, Nevada Northern Conference)
Renee Jackson (Michigan Conference)
Nancy Lawrence (Massachusetts Conference)
Janet Leung (Southwest Conference)
Adrian Maxey (Council of Racial and Ethnic Ministries)
Steven Mayers (Florida Conference)
Akendo Onamwar (Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries)
Kevin Peterson (Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries)
Sharyl Peterson (Rocky Mountain Conference)
Inez Reid (Central Atlantic Conference)
Sheila Rubdi (New Hampshire Conference)

Barbara Schwartz Brus (Kansas Oklahoma Conference)
Carol Stanley (Penn Northwest Conference)
Kenneth Ulmer (Pension Boards)

Office of General Ministries

Douglas Anders (Council of Conference Ministers)
Donald Barnes (Pension Boards)
Pat Barnes-McConnell (Michigan Conference)
Carol Barriger (California, Nevada Northern Conference)
Fred Breen (Iowa Conference)
James David (Nebraska Conference)
James Ewers (At Large)
Jan Griesinger (Ohio Conference)
Harold Harmison (Illinois Conference)
Roberta Johnson (Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries)
Kayla Kautz (Montana-Northern Wyoming Conference)
Richard Leavitt (New Hampshire Conference)
Ryan Mathews (UCC Disabilities Ministries)
Alan McLarty (Council of Conference Ministers)
Christopher Ponnuraj (Pacific Islanders and Asian American Ministries)
Kenneth Samuel (Coalition for Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, and Transgender Concerns)
Emily Seymore (Youth at Large)

Wider Church Ministries

Mervin Bangert (Rocky Mountain Conference)
Joyce Bathke (Missouri Mid-South Conference)
Lynn Bujnak (Council of Conference Ministers)
William Clarke, III (Florida Conference)
Wesley Conn (Penn West Conference)
Tyler Connoley (Southwest Conference)
Barbara Daniel (Pension Boards)
Thomas Haines (Minnesota Conference)
Oletha Haller (Michigan Conference)
Dorothy Keller (Vermont Conference)
Erik Koepknick (Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries)
David Long-Higgins (Ohio Conference)
Drew McLaren (Maine Conference)
Susan Mitchell (Southeast Conference)
Rich Pleva (Council of Conference Ministers)
Sharon (Shari) Prestemon (Council for Health and Human Service Ministry)
Katelyn Roedner (Central Atlantic Conference)
Jeanne Tyler (UCC Disabilities Ministries)
Mei Wang (California, Nevada Northern Conference)
Leon White (Ministers for Racial, Social and Economic Justice)

Jennifer Wright (Youth at Large)

8. PROCESS FOR ELECTION OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Tellers were asked to distribute the ballots for the Nominating Committee election. Ms. Davis noted there are two sets of names on the ballot, those who are to be elected from Conferences and those who are nominated from Groups. Questions arose about the biographies and ages of nominees. Ms. Davis advised that information was available on the United Church of Christ website in advance of the meeting. She also advised that members of the Nominating Committee are recommended by the Executive Council. Ms. Edith Guffey reminded delegates they were voting on vacancies, which do not reflect the makeup of the entire committee. Assistant Moderator Tedder stated election results will be announced Tuesday morning.

9. REPORT OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Assistant Moderator Jane Tedder invited Ms. Kathy Houston, Chief Financial Officer, to offer a financial presentation as we prepare to vote on the National Basic Support Allocations for the upcoming biennium. **(SEE APPENDIX G: REPORT OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER)**

10. ADOPTION OF THE NATIONAL BASIC SUPPORT ALLOCATION BASE AND ALLOCATION PERCENTAGES FOR THE NEXT BIENNIUM.

Ms. Tedder then invited Mr. Luther Holland, Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee of the Executive Council, to present the actions necessary for the adoption of the National Basic Support Allocation Base and Allocation Percentages for the next biennium.

Mr. Holland moved, on behalf of the Executive Council, that the General Synod adopt a National Basic Support Allocation base of \$8.5 million and \$8.5 million for the budget years 2010 and 2011. Discussion followed.

09-GS-26 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod adopts a National Basic Support Allocation base of \$8.5 million and \$8.5 million for the budget years 2010 and 2011.

Mr. Holland moved, on behalf of the Executive Council, that the General Synod delegate the determination of the percentage allocation for Our Church's Wider Mission National Basic Support for the 2010-2011 biennium to the Executive Council.

09-GS-27 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod delegates the determination of the percentage allocation for Our Church's Wider Mission National Basic Support for the 2010-2011 biennium to the Executive Council.

11. REPORT ON YOUTH STUDY

Ms. Kelly Burd and Mr. Tom Chu were invited to share a video and report on the recent study of youth ministry in the United Church of Christ.

Ms. Burd reported in conversation with Conference youth staff, a new opportunity was provided for youth at General Synod. Because budget restraints and limited schedules force many youth to choose between going on an annual service/mission trip and coming to General Synod, this Synod's program combined the two. A week long program for high school students called "Youth @ General Synod" was piloted. "Youth @ General Synod" participants worked at fifteen service sites combining over 2700 hours of service. Youth, chaperones and youth group leaders were recognized. Thanks was extended to all who supported the "Youth @ General Synod" program, the young adult gatherings, and the 20/30 Clergy events this week.

Mr. Chu noted that a year-long assessment has been done to shape a comprehensive plan for youth ministry. Youth and young adults placed a high value on justice work and inclusive congregations. Young adults yearn to network with the wider church for leadership training. The next step is to determine staffing for youth and young adult ministries. A complete report was given to each Conference Minister present at General Synod and a full report will be available on the United Church of Christ website.

Ms. Marilyn Pagan Banks spoke to the feeling that Latino and Asian faces were missing in the video, but Mr. Chu assured her there were both Latino and Asian youth in the video.

12. RESOLUTION: CALLING ON PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA TO REVISIT AND RE-NEGOTIATE A MORE HUMANE, DEMOCRATIC, AND ECOLOGICALLY SOUND VERSION OF THE NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

Assistant Moderator Jane Tedder called upon Mr. Jeremy Rich, Chair of Committee Nine to present the recommended action for that Committee.

Mr. Rich moved the adoption of the resolution “Calling on President Barack Obama to Revisit and Re-negotiate a More Humane, Democratic, and Ecologically Sound Version of the North American Free Trade Agreement.” He then spoke to the motion.

09-GS-28 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod adopts the resolution “Calling on President Barack Obama to Revisit and Re-negotiate a More Humane, Democratic, and Ecologically Sound Version of the North American Free Trade Agreement.”

CALLING ON PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA TO REVISIT AND RE-NEGOTIATE A MORE HUMANE, DEMOCRATIC, AND ECOLOGICALLY SOUND VERSION OF THE NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, numerous General Synod resolutions have sought to support a more just national and international economic system, including “Justice in the *Maquiladoras*” (Eighteenth General Synod, 1991), “In Support of International Fair Trade” (Nineteenth General Synod, 1993), “Affirming Democratic Principles in an Emerging Global Economy” (Twenty-first General Synod, 1997), “Ending the Stranglehold of Global Debt on Impoverished Nations” (Twenty-second General Synod, 1999); and “Resolution Calling For A More Just, Humane Direction For Economic Globalization” (Twenty-third General Synod, 2001); “For the Common Good” (Twenty-fifth General Synod, 2005), and

WHEREAS, numerous General Synod resolutions have called for a more democratic and humane relationship between the US and Mexico, including, “A Call for a More Humane U.S. Immigration Policy: End Migrant Deaths; Support Immigrant Communities” (Twenty-sixth General Synod, 2007); “Emergency Resolution to End the Death of Migrants on the United States-Mexico Border by Offering Water in Christ’s Name”(Twenty-third General Synod, 2001); and “Border Justice Issues: A Challenge for the 21st Century Church” (Twenty-second, 1999), and

WHEREAS, on January 1, 1994, amid major opposition and protests in Canada, the US, and Mexico, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) came officially into effect for our three countries—and the next day the Zapatista rebel movement was launched to protest it, and

WHEREAS, the treaty was written ostensibly to lower trade barriers, subsidies, tariffs, and duties, and further integrate the economies of Canada, the US and Mexico in order to create a “level playing field” for trade and finance throughout the three countries, but in reality it contained many other provisions

which have damaged homes, families, jobs, livelihoods, the environment, and potentially even our democracy, and

WHEREAS, the treaty also set up a nontransparent judicial system that stands above our three democratically elected governments which has the power to override our individual laws and courts, and in which corporations (but not individuals) can sue countries if their legislatures pass laws which they perceive will cost them future profits, as for example when the Delaware firm, Metalclad was prevented by a vote of the town council of Guadalcazar, Mexico, from building a toxic waste treatment center in their town, but Metalclad successfully sued the government of Mexico in the NAFTA tribunal, arguing that the democratically elected council did not have the authority to ban construction of the waste dump that could have made them a profit, and was paid by the Mexican government \$15.6 million in future damages, and

WHEREAS, the treaty was first proposed as something that would dramatically raise employment and living standards in all three countries, but in reality contributed to major job losses and either declines or flattened incomes in all three countries (in the US because workers couldn't compete with Mexico's lower worker incomes, and in Mexico because farmers couldn't compete with the US' subsidized agricultural products), and

WHEREAS, the damage to Mexican farmers and low income workers contributed to a massive increase in immigration north to the US looking for work, which then led to US policies that expended millions of dollars in fences and surveillance along the border and thousands of tragic Mexican deaths in the deserts, and

WHEREAS, the treaty claimed to uphold labor rights and protect the environment through "side agreements" which established oversight panels, in reality they were poorly funded and had weak enforcement powers (and frequently weak desires by appointees to enforce what powers they had) and

WHEREAS, the scriptures are replete with stories of our ancestors immigrating to foreign countries looking for food and work during times of economic hardship (Ruth and Naomi, Abraham, Joseph's brothers, etc.), and of the Israelites themselves welcoming in the "resident aliens," "foreigners," and "sojourners and strangers" (Exodus 22:21, Leviticus 19:34, etc.), and

WHEREAS, the Hebrew scriptures abound with judgments on those who would oppress others through economic means and who had no compassion on the homeless, the indebted, the jobless, and the stranger (Exodus 23:6; Jeremiah 22:3, etc.), and

WHEREAS, in the Christian scriptures the Apostle Paul challenged those who were once "aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise," but who now had found the oneness of God through Jesus Christ and were no longer "far off" but instead "brought near" because "in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us," and created "in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace... putting to death that hostility through it" making us all "citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God." (Eph 2:11-20), and

WHEREAS, during the 2008 presidential campaign, candidate Barack Obama (and others) came out strongly in support of the revisiting and revisioning of NAFTA, to bring it more into line with our proclaimed values of respect and concern for the rights and dignity of all human beings and of love and care in the stewardship of all the earth, as, for example, in a speech in February, 2008, when he said, "I will not sign any trade agreement as President that does not have protections for our environment and protections for American workers, and I'll pass the Patriot Employer Act that I've been fighting for ever

since I ran for the Senate so we can end tax breaks for companies that ship our jobs overseas, and give those breaks to companies that create good jobs with decent wages here in America,” or in an interview with the *Chicago Tribune* in September 2004, “As part of any current or future trade agreement negotiations, our nation must address the dislocations caused by expanded global trade by maintaining workers’ basic benefits and helping them retrain,” and

WHEREAS, economists, social justice organizations, churches, human rights groups, environmental groups, and labor unions have called for the leaders of the three nations to come together and re-envision the treaty, especially in the areas of labor, the environment, and protection of democratic principles, and

WHEREAS, numerous polls have shown that majorities of citizens of all three countries support some level of reopening and renegotiation of NAFTA,

WHEREAS, there are many powerful special interests and powerful individuals (both outside and inside of the President’s Administration) who are strongly against any conversation of any kind about any changes in NAFTA,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Twenty-seventh General Synod of the United Church of Christ voice their support for President Barack Obama’s commitment to work with the leaders of Mexico and Canada, to revisit and re-envision NAFTA in ways that would,

1. strengthen its labor and environmental side agreements with greater funding and language granting significant enforcement powers, revise its Chapter 11, “investor protection” provisions in order to shield the legislative and judicial decisions of our three countries and to allow individuals and communities who might be harmed by the effects of NAFTA (not just corporations) to participate in the tribunal process, and that the tribunal process be held to a broader and more transparent operation and mechanism of accountability, and
2. design a humane and coherent immigration policy, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ be requested to write a letter to the President expressing these concerns, concerns which are shared by the majorities of citizens in all three of our respective countries, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Justice and Witness Ministries and the Washington DC Program Team be encouraged to work toward the passage through Congress of a revisited and re-envisioned NAFTA, if and when that becomes appropriate legislatively, and to keep our various churches and instrumentalities apprised of its progress and where we might be helpful in its passage, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that our various churches be encouraged to, whenever possible, lift up in prayer, study, and worship the important issues of trade justice with countries such as Mexico, to join with delegations and immersion programs to Latin America through our own Centro Romero, or the Equal Exchange Interfaith Program, the Jubilee Justice Task Force, Border Links, or other organizations, and to be advocates for just, fair, equitable trade policies for poor and working class people in all three of our respective countries.

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.

IMPLEMENTATION

Justice and Witness Ministries is requested to implement this resolution.

13. RESOLUTION: A CALL TO AWARENESS AND ACTION TO END THE PRACTICE OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

Assistant Moderator Tedder called upon Ms. Evelyn Vigil, Chair of Committee Eleven to present action from that Committee.

Ms. Vigil moved the adoption of the resolution “A Call to Awareness and Action to End the Practice of Trafficking in Persons.” She then spoke to the motion.

09-GS-29 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod adopts the resolution “A Call to Awareness and Action to End the Practice of Trafficking in Persons.”

A CALL TO AWARENESS AND ACTION TO END THE PRACTICE OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

WHEREAS, trafficking in persons is a global, widespread and illegal practice which violates basic human rights, including the United Nations Declaration of Universal Human Rights, and is a sin against God,

WHEREAS, an estimated 14,000-18,000 persons are trafficked per year within the United States, often in the communities where we live, work and worship, and

WHEREAS, the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA has called upon its member communions to study and engage in advocacy on issues of human trafficking, and

WHEREAS, women and children represent the largest percentage (80%) of those being trafficked, and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has longstanding commitments to ensuring the basic human rights of all persons,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-seventh General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourage its members, congregations and various settings to engage in education about the issue of trafficking in persons and advocacy efforts to end this criminal and abusive practice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Justice and Witness Ministries and Wider Church Ministries will provide resourcing for education and advocacy, including use of the National Council of Churches in the USA’s “Social Creed for the 21st Century”; work with international ecumenical bodies and other agencies such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the Freedom Network USA, and End Child Prostitution and Trafficking USA (ECPAT) to bring an end to human trafficking in the United States and abroad; monitoring the ongoing funding for the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that local congregations will be encouraged to observe the Sunday closest to January 11th as “Human Trafficking Awareness Day” through prayer, reflection, education and actions that will assist in bringing an end to these forms of modern day slavery.

FUNDING

Funding for the implementation of this resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the named agencies and the subject to availability of funds.

IMPLEMENTATION

Justice and Witness Ministries and Wider Church Ministries will collaborate in the implementation of this resolution.

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Assistant Moderator Jane Tedder called upon Ms. Edith Guffey for announcements.

Ms. Guffey explained the process for Speakout! sign-ups.

There are no DVD's available from speakers. However, information is posted on the website.

15. RECESS

Assistant Moderator Tedder declared the fourth plenary on the General Synod to be in recess following worship.

Monday evening worship, June 29, 2009

The worship service centered on our many gifts, one spirit. Ms. Kara Miller choreographed a dance around the guiding image of "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness" and was joined by Mr. Edward Lawrence and Mr. Yicun Sun.

Tuesday morning, June 30, 2009

Fifth Plenary Session

1. CALL TO ORDER

Assistant Moderator Jane Tedder called the fifth business session of the Twenty-seventh General Synod to order.

2. SPEAKOUTS!

Ms. Tedder called upon the following Speakout! participants:

1. Julie Holm (CAC) and James Camp (SC) informed those present about the United Church of Christ History, Theology and Polity class.
2. Bonnie Moore (PSE) was notified by township officials that the temporary emergency housing ministry for the homeless at Shenkel United Church of Christ was not legal. The ACLU has filed a complaint in Federal Court on the church's behalf. She thanked everyone for their prayers.
3. Charles May (IS) informed everyone about the discrimination against gay and bisexual men in blood donation.
4. Jim Antal (MASS) informed everyone about the website www.350.org containing information about environmental and climate change.
5. Bob Thompson (SOC) reminded delegates of John Calvin's 500th birthday July 10.
6. Barbara Lohrbach (IL) extended an invitation from the Illinois Conference to stop at Tower Hill Camp.
7. Nancy Mears (PW) having been a United Church of Christ member for 50 years and serving the church as a Licensed Minister for 25 years, was excited to hear discussions about alternative paths to ordination.
8. Jason Donnelly (MASS) acknowledged the indigenous peoples of this area upon whose land we gather.
9. Oby Ballinger (MN) informed delegates that the Council on Youth and Young Adult Ministries election results will be announced from the podium. Meredith Jackson (CA NV, N) urged delegates to nominate under 30 representatives to the CYYAM Board.
10. Marie Bacchiocchi (SW) announced the Casas Adobes Congregational United Church of Christ, Tucson, AZ will search for a new pastor in 2010.
11. Charles Buck (HI) was dismayed to read that the Hawaii Conference delegation is missing from the program booklet. Then upon further reading, was surprised to realize that

Hawaii's ten delegates were listed as members of the Florida Conference. As Conference Minister, he was concerned that all the delegates had defected. However, such is not the case and Hawaii is here!

Ms. Tedder thanked all participants.

3. NOMINATING COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

Assistant Moderator Tedder thanked all those nominees who agreed to have their names submitted for consideration. She then announced the following people were elected to the Nominating Committee Class of 2015:

Lay persons:	Ivy Tillman, MA Christina Held, CA NV, S James Turner, IK
Clergy persons:	Chandra Soans, PSE James Foucher, RM Dawn Shihey, NH
Elected from Groups:	Angela Myers, UBC Eric C Smith, UCCLGBTC

Ms. Tedder again thanked all those willing to serve on the Nominating Committee.

4. RESOLUTION: TOWARD UNIFIED GOVERNANCE FOR THE NATIONAL SETTING OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Ms. Tedder called upon Mr. Bernard Wilson, Chair of Committee Six to present action from that committee.

Mr. Wilson moved the adoption of the substitute resolution "Toward Unified Governance for the National Setting of the United Church of Christ."

Ms. Libby Tignor (CA NV,S) moved that Sharon MacArthur, Hattie Walker, Phil Porter, Peter Barbosa and Yvette Flunder be granted voice without vote for the discussion and debate related to the resolution under consideration. The motion was seconded.

09-GS-30 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod grants voice without vote to Sharon MacArthur, Hattie Walker, Phil Porter, Peter Barbosa and Yvette Flunder for the discussion and debate related to the resolution entitled "Toward Unified Governance for the National Setting of the United Church of Christ."

Mr. Wilson then spoke to the resolution, noting that the substitute resolution replaces ten resolutions sent to Committee at General Synod. The Committee recommended "no action" on the submitted resolutions.

Mr. Stephen Camp (SOC) moved to amend the motion as follows:

- Line 9 – strike "separate form"
- Line 10 – change to although "possible"
- Line 30 – strike "Board" and add "Structure"
- Line 33 – strike "incorporating" and add "as well as"
- Line 38 – strike "Board" and add "Structure"

Extensive discussion focused upon the implications of changing the word “Board” to “Structure.”

Ms. Margot Phillips (NY) called for a Point of Order asking whether by virtue of our corporation status we are required to have a “Board” rather than a “Structure.”

Mr. Don Clark (NY), legal counsel for the United Church of Christ, indicated that Boards of the Covenanted Ministries incorporated in Ohio and Massachusetts are required by those states to have “Boards” to govern them. However, the national setting organization is determined by how the association decides. Therefore the requirement is not so limited.

Ms. Jane Quandt (LCM) moved to divide the question so “Board to Structure” items could be voted separately. The motion was seconded.

09-GS-31 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod votes to divide the question so “Board to Structure” items could be voted separately.

Further discussion was held related to the lack of clarity in the use of the word “Structure.”
Mr. Alex Peters (CA NV, N) moved to close debate. The motion was seconded.

09-GS-32 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod votes to close debate.

09-GS-33 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod votes to defeat the amendment to strike “Board” and add the word “Structure.”

Assistant Moderator Jane Tedder indicated that the word changes in Lines 9, 10 and 33 were now under consideration.

Ms. Phyllis Baum (EC) moved that debate be closed.

09-GS-34 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod votes to close debate.

09-GS-35 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod votes to defeat the motion to amend the resolution in Lines 9, 10 and 33.

Several Points of Personal Privilege were called for related to the discussion of the proposed amendments, including a request for a word of prayer for those who were disappointed by the defeat of the amendment.

09-GS-36 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod adopts the resolution “Toward Unified Governance for the National Setting of the United Church of Christ.”

TOWARD UNIFIED GOVERNANCE FOR THE NATIONAL SETTING OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. Morgan thanked Mr. Wilson and the members of the committee for their thoughtful consideration of the issue.

5. RESOLUTION: AN ECONOMIC JUSTICE COVENANT

Moderator Marvin Morgan called upon Mr. Seth Carey, Chair of Committee Two to present action from that committee.

Mr. Luther Holland (ILL) reminded the Moderator that a request for prayer from Ms. Rebecca West (CAC) had not been acknowledged. The Moderator invited Ms. Sharon MacArthur to pray in response to the request.

The Moderator accepted an additional request for two minutes to hear the concerns of those who had been opposed to the Single Governance Resolution.

Mr. David Gaewski (ME) respectfully requested the house revisit the action related to the Single Governance resolution for the purpose of submitting a minority resolution.

Moderator Morgan ruled the request out of order in that a minority motion has to be noticed prior to the vote on the resolution.

There followed a demonstration protesting the adoption of the resolution, "Toward Unified Governance for the National Setting of the United Church of Christ."

Mr. Carey moved the adoption of the resolution “An Economic Justice Covenant.” He then spoke to the resolution.

Mr. Gaewski (ME) rose to a Point of Order and moved to appeal the ruling of the Chair as to the submission of a minority resolution with regard to the Single Governance resolution.

09-GS-37 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod votes to defeat the appeal of the ruling of the Chair as to the submission of a minority resolution with regard to the Single Governance resolution.

Mr. Morgan thanked Mr. Carey for his handling of the situation related to the events following the passage of the resolution from Committee Six (governance).

09-GS-38 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod adopts the resolution “An Economic Justice Covenant.”

AN ECONOMIC JUSTICE COVENANT

BE IT RESOLVED, that each setting of the United Church of Christ -- National, Conference, Association and Local Church -- is encouraged to become an Economic Justice setting that:

- 1) Engages in focused studies of the economic injustices that prevail in our society and our world, and the ways in which God’s abundance is distributed so inequitably;
- 2) Creates a program of study that may lead that body to draft and adopt an “Economic Justice Covenant” that reflects the context, experience, study, discernment and commitment to action of that body;
- 3) Develops a range of programs and activities with the goals of inspiring members and organizing them to engage in actions that promote economic justice. Such programs encourage members to:
 - a) work as partners with people in need through service outreach ministries and community organizing;
 - b) adopt sustainable personal and family lifestyles;
 - c) help all people to become economically secure through joint endeavors with social justice organizations and other programs that empower people;
 - d) reflect justice in all settings of the United Church of Christ’s economic life by offering fair wages and benefits, adopting sustainable practices with its facilities, and transacting business in a socially just manner;
 - e) advocate for the formation of public policies that move our society toward economic justice, the well being of all people, and the care of creation;
 - f) utilize avenues of networking and communication to collaborate with other United Church of Christ entities, as well as other Christian and non-Christian faith communities, to create and promote throughout our nation and the world an ethic that values economic justice for all and the sharing of resources to promote a sustainable common good.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-seventh General Synod establish a national Task Force staffed by Justice and Witness Ministries to develop an Economic Justice Covenant program that fulfills these goals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Task Force provide a list of specific examples of sustainable living and programs that empower people that is accessible to all settings of the United Church of Christ.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that Justice and Witness Ministries will be responsible for developing strategies and resources to implement this resolution.

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.

IMPLEMENTATION

Justice and Witness Ministries is requested to implement this resolution.

6. RESOLUTION: A CALL TO BE GLOBAL MISSION CHURCHES IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Committee Chair Seth Carey moved the adoption of the resolution “A Call to be Global Mission Churches in the United Church of Christ” and spoke to the resolution.

In a friendly amendment, Ms. Callie Rogers-Witte and Ms. Linda Jaramillo indicated that Justice & Witness Ministries needs to be included in the implementation portion of the resolution.

09-GS-39 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod adopts the resolution “A Call to be Global Mission Churches in the United Church of Christ.”

A CALL TO BE GLOBAL MISSION CHURCHES IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WHEREAS, throughout the past two centuries, for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ, global presence and witness have been at the core of God’s mission through the church; and

WHEREAS, since 1996 Global Ministries has been a common witness of the Division of Overseas Ministries, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and of Wider Church Ministries, United Church of Christ, an ecumenical endeavor unique among American Protestant denominations which today continues to walk with 270 global partners in some 68 countries discerning together priorities of critical presence and action with the sole purpose of timely and appropriately meeting God’s people and creation at the point of deepest need: spiritually, physically, emotionally and/or economically; and

WHEREAS, in keeping with the critical presence priority, over 150 persons in mission are currently serving as missionaries, volunteers, interns and associates in 50 countries, and missionaries sent by our global partners are welcomed to serve in the United States and Canada in fulfillment of our commitment to mutuality in mission; and

WHEREAS, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ, in a joint effort with various ecumenical initiatives in the United States and Canada and others throughout the world including the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA and the World Council of Churches, continue to seek ways to respond to God’s people and creation who are in need of wholeness and

transformation, calling us to renew our commitment to God’s mission of reconciliation and unity which is both local and global; and

WHEREAS, both denominations were founders of and still actively participate in bringing leadership to the ecumenical service organizations known as Church World Service and Action by Churches Together, providing sustainable self-help and development, disaster relief, and refugee assistance in some 80 countries; and

WHEREAS, a local church engaged in ministry globally is a vital and faithful church, one that is dynamic and growing in strong local and global relationships, bringing abundant blessings, creating understanding and building communities of justice and service; and

WHEREAS, Global Ministries seeks to facilitate the engagement of local churches and other settings of the church more intentionally in global mission; and

WHEREAS, God’s call to mission is already embodied and celebrated in all settings of the church in myriad expressions of relationship, service, mission presence, justice witness, worship and advocacy; and

WHEREAS, partnership means receiving the gifts and learning from the experiences of others in our world, building greater effectiveness through collective efforts and mutually recognizing and encouraging each other in ministry;

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Twenty-seventh General Synod, meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan, June 26-30, 2009, promotes and encourages all settings of the church to claim and implement the Global Mission Church designation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-seventh General Synod invites all settings of the United Church of Christ—National, Conferences, Associations and local churches, and all age groups of the church, especially youth and young adults to utilize assessment and implementation resources, such as *Be a Global Mission Church*; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Twenty-seventh General Synod declares itself a “Global Mission Church,” and recognizes such designation as one of the priorities of the church; and, furthermore, the Twenty-seventh General Synod encourages all settings of the United Church of Christ to claim the identity of being a Global Mission Church.

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.

IMPLEMENTATION

Local churches, Associations and Conferences of the United Church of Christ, The Office of General Ministries, Wider Church Ministries, Justice & Witness Ministries and Local Church Ministries are requested to implement this resolution.

7. RESOLUTION: A CALL FOR STUDY OF OUR CHURCH’S INVOLVEMENT IN THE EUGENICS MOVEMENT

Moderator Morgan called upon Mr. Tom Hancock, Chair of Committee Thirteen, to present action from that committee.

Mr. Hancock moved the adoption of the resolution “A Call for Study of our Church’s Involvement in the Eugenics Movement.”

Mr. Andrew Smith (WISC) moved to end debate.

09-GS-40 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod votes to end debate.

09-GS-41 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod adopts the resolution “A Call for Study of Our Church’s Involvement in the Eugenics Movement.”

A CALL FOR STUDY OF OUR CHURCH’S INVOLVEMENT IN THE EUGENICS MOVEMENT

WHEREAS, current public policy debates center around issues of difference with regard to race, immigration, gender, sexual orientation, genetic therapies, education, etc.;

WHEREAS, the Church should be involved in these debates and conversations;

WHEREAS, the church and society previously debated these issues during the eugenics movement of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries;

WHEREAS, the moral and theological wrongs of the eugenics movement are legion;

WHEREAS, the predecessor denominations of the United Church of Christ, their churches, and clergy were intimately involved in the eugenics movement; and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has claimed in previous resolutions that institutionalized injustices continue to affect contemporary society;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-seventh General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages conferences, associations, congregations, agencies, and ministries of the United Church of Christ to join in active exploration on issues dealing with our history of involvement in the eugenics movement; and the ethical implications on eugenics today and to share their significant findings with Justice and Witness Ministries of the United Church of Christ.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Justice and Witness Ministries of the United Church of Christ is called on to direct the development of a study concerned with the eugenics movement to determine the historical involvement and to propose future actions of the United Church of Christ on this matter.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Justice and Witness Ministries of the United Church of Christ is requested to report their findings to the next General Synod, including suggested resources for further study for individual congregations, associations, and conferences of the United Church of Christ.

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.

IMPLEMENTATION

Justice and Witness Ministries is requested to implement this resolution.

8. OUR CHURCH'S WIDER MISSION CHANGING LIVES PRESENTATION

Moderator Marvin Morgan called upon Ms. Jane Heckles and Mr. Bentley deBardelaben to share another "Changing Lives" presentation.

9. RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL STAFF

Moderator Morgan called all national staff members to the stage so they could be thanked for the work they do for our local churches, conferences, and all of us. The delegates responded with a standing ovation of appreciation.

10. SONG BREAK

Mr. Ken Medema provided an inspiring musical presentation.

11. COLLEGIUM REPORT

Assistant Moderator John Humphrey invited Mr. Steve Sterner, Executive Minister for Local Church Ministries, and Ms. Edith Guffey, Associate General Minister, to present the second Collegium report.

Mr. Sterner and Ms. Guffey stated it is the role of the national church to build bridges to those effective places where our leaders' abilities can be strengthened, our strategies can be honed, and our congregational vitality can be energized.

12. RESOLUTION: CALLING FOR COMPREHENSIVE HIV PREVENTION IN CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

Mr. Humphrey called upon Ms. Pamela Cook, Chair of Committee Five to present action from that committee.

Ms. Cook moved the adoption of the resolution "Calling for Comprehensive HIV Prevention in Church and Community." She then spoke to the resolution.

09-GS-42 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod adopts the resolution "Calling for Comprehensive HIV Prevention in Church and Community".

CALLING FOR COMPREHENSIVE HIV PREVENTION IN CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

WHEREAS, our Christian faith calls upon the disciples of Jesus Christ to follow Jesus' teachings and the examples of Jesus' ministry; and,

Jesus reached out with compassion and healing to those who were sick and marginalized, and called people of faith to be ready and alert, for example:

- Matthew 14:14. *When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick.*
- Mark 1:40-42. *A leper came to him begging him, and kneeling he said to him, "If you choose, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, "I do choose. Be made clean!" Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean.*
- Luke 12:39. *But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into.*
- Matthew 25:1-13. *Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.*

and,

There are an estimated 33 million people living with HIV worldwide and that for every 5 new HIV infections there are only 2 people who receive medical treatment (UNAIDS, June 2008), demonstrating that the world is losing the fight against HIV and AIDS. Treatment alone cannot stop the HIV and AIDS pandemic; and,

The United States Center for Disease Control (CDC) released new data revealing that HIV infections in the US are 40% higher than previously thought and reporting estimates that there are more than 1 million persons living with HIV in the U.S. and 20% of them do not know they are HIV positive (August 3, 2008); and,

The global health community, including UNAIDS, the World Health Organization, the U.S. CDC, and the U.S. National Institute for Health, has called for increased best practice, comprehensive HIV prevention efforts, especially with vulnerable groups and high risk populations; and,

The CDC has encouraged everyone to know their HIV status; and,

The international HIV and AIDS community has recognized the important role of faith communities like the United Church of Christ in HIV prevention and care, and the untapped capacity that exists in such communities for effective response; and,

The Fourteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopted the Resolution on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and declared its “compassionate concern and support for all persons with AIDS, their lovers, spouses, families and friends” and the Sixteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopted the pronouncement “Health and Wholeness in the Midst of a Pandemic” and called the United Church of Christ to leadership in response to AIDS.

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

Declares its compassionate concern about the growing human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) epidemic in the United States and throughout the world, and its support for all those living with and affected by HIV; and,

Reaffirms the Pronouncement on Health and Wholeness in the Midst of a Pandemic adopted by the Sixteenth General Synod, the Resolution on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) adopted by the Fourteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ and the Resolution, “Responding to AIDS: Endorsement and Enactment of the “Ten Principles for the Workplace” adopted by the Seventeenth General Synod; and,

Affirms current efforts to, and calls on all clergy and lay persons in all settings of the United Church of Christ to:

- become knowledgeable about HIV and AIDS,
- understand how HIV is transmitted and how it is prevented,
- work to prevent its transmission,
- reduce stigma and discrimination, and
- help the whole church to increase its HIV competency; and,

Strongly urges all clergy and lay persons in the United Church of Christ to know their HIV status; and,

Calls on local churches and other settings of the church to develop and implement best practice comprehensive HIV prevention education, programs and strategies for church and community, with particular attention to vulnerable groups and at risk populations; and,

Calls on the United Church of Christ HIV and AIDS Network (UCAN, Inc.) to work collaboratively within and beyond the United Church of Christ to provide technical assistance, training, education, and resources to help all settings of the church develop and implement comprehensive HIV prevention strategies and programs for church and community, and encourage the use of existing resources such as *Affirming Persons*, *Saving Lives* and the comprehensive sexuality education curriculum, *Our Whole Lives*; and,

Calls on local, state and federal governments to work together to develop and implement a national HIV and AIDS strategy that includes increased funding for best practice comprehensive HIV prevention programs; and,

Calls on Wider Church Ministries to report on the progress of the implementation of this resolution to the next three General Synods.

FUNDING

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

IMPLEMENTATION

In collaboration with Wider Church Ministries, UCAN, Inc. is responsible for developing the strategy and program designed to implement this resolution.

13. RESOLUTION: AN URGENT CALL FOR ADVOCACY IN SUPPORT OF HEALTH CARE FOR ALL, AS IN H.R. 676

Mr. Humphrey called upon Mr. Michael Castle, Chair of Committee Twelve, to present action from that committee.

Mr. Castle moved the adoption of the resolution “An Urgent Call for Advocacy in Support of Health Care for All, as in H.R. 676.

Ms. Marti Baumer (ILL) rose to a Point of Order questioning whether it was the intention of the presenters that we not support the legislation if it does not meet all the criteria in H.R. 676. Mr. Castle responded that the committee would not support legislation that does not meet all requirements.

Mr. Andrew Smith (WISC) moved to end debate.

09-GS-43 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod votes to end debate.

09-GS-44 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod adopts the resolution “An Urgent Call for Advocacy in Support of Health Care for All, as in H.R. 676.

AN URGENT CALL FOR ADVOCACY IN SUPPORT OF HEALTH CARE FOR ALL, AS IN H.R. 676

BE IT RESOLVED that: Based on our belief that health care is not only a basic human NEED but also a basic human RIGHT and our belief that it is a moral imperative to transform health care so that it is:

inclusive, accessible, affordable and accountable, the Twenty-seventh General Synod calls upon the United Church of Christ in all its settings to act with urgency to:

--affirm its support for universal health care which meets the following criteria: 1) it covers all persons; 2) it presents no financial barriers; 3) it provides comprehensive benefits; 4) it offers a choice of physicians and other health providers; and 5) it eliminates racial, ethnic and all other disparities for health care.

-- advocate for and support legislation to be passed by the fall of 2009 by the 111th congress which meets these criteria.

Endorse and support a national health insurance program such as the proposal found in Congressman Conyers' legislation, H.R. 676, "Expanded and Improved Medicare for All" or a public health option as long as such legislation meets the above criteria. Pursue interfaith and ecumenical cooperation with the goal of immediately obtaining passage of H.R. 676 or such legislation as meets our criteria by the fall of 2009 by the 111th Congress and its signing by the President of the United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution calls church and community to new and increased levels of attention, commitment and action. We encourage the United Church of Christ in all its settings to work with COREM, JWM, LCM and other United Church of Christ health-related organizations to:

-- disseminate information and call upon participants of the Twenty-seventh General Synod, members and congregations to contact their members of Congress and the President of the United States urging them to fully support H.R. 676 or such legislation as meets our criteria.

-- form task forces focused on healthcare in each conference to provide information and urge action to support public health insurance..

--organize and plan discussion forums using the PBS documentary and study guide *Unnatural Causes...is inequality making us sick?* To learn about and/or better understand the implications of health disparities and inequities on the health of the public and to raise awareness about the extent and cost of health inequalities.

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.

IMPLEMENTATION

The Twenty-seventh General Synod calls upon Justice and Witness Ministries in concert with other affected programs and agencies to work to develop the strategy and program to implement this resolution.

14. RESOLUTION: AFFIRMING THE ACCRA CONFESSION: COVENANTING FOR JUSTICE IN THE ECONOMY AND THE EARTH

Assistant Moderator Humphrey called upon Ms. Julie Peeples, Chair of Committee Seven, to present action from that committee.

Ms. Peeples moved the adoption of the resolution "Affirming the Accra Confession: Covenanting for Justice in the Economy and the Earth." She then spoke to the resolution.

09-GS-45 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod adopts the resolution "Affirming the Accra Confession: Covenanting for Justice in the Economy and the Earth".

BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-seventh General Synod of the United Church of Christ affirms the importance of the *Accra Confession: Covenanting for Justice in the Economy and the Earth*; which was

previously affirmed by UCC delegates to the World Alliance of Reformed Churches General Council 2004.

Be it further resolved that the Twenty-seventh General Synod urges all United Church of Christ members, churches, associations, conferences, and institutions to:

- read and study the *Accra Confession* and use it in worship and as a focus for educational forums;
- learn about neoliberal economic globalization, as defined by the *ACCRA Confession*, and other economic systems which impoverish and oppress people around the world and in the U.S., and study the impacts of these economic systems;
- pray about and discern the implications of the *Accra Confession* for our daily life as individuals, and for our life together in our homes, churches, and institutions; and
- engage in advocacy around national and international policies that will bring the reality of globalization more in line with God's vision for God's world;

Be it further resolved that resources created by the WARC North American Covenanting for Justice Working Group will be made available (primarily online) for use by all settings of the United Church of Christ (including online resources that describe the WARC process and detail its history posted at http://warc.jalb.de/warcajsp/side.jsp?news_id=1154&navi=45).

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.

IMPLEMENTATION

Justice and Witness Ministries and Wider Church Ministries are requested to implement this resolution.

15. RESOLUTION: ON THE ROLES OF CHURCH AND GOVERNMENT IN ADDRESSING THE GLOBAL FOOD CRISIS

Ms. Peoples moved the adoption of the resolution "On the Roles of Church and Government in Addressing the Global Food Crisis" and spoke to the resolution.

Ms. Becky Hebert (MOMS) offered a friendly amendment as follows:

In the fourth resolve: add "removal of land from corporate" following "to study ways"

In the final resolve: remove "futures"

In the Implementation section: add "in cooperation with Bread for the World"

The amendment was not accepted as a "friendly amendment" and was then moved and seconded as a formal amendment.

Mr. Andrew Smith (WISC) moved to close debate on the amendment.

09-GS-46 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod votes to close debate.

09-GS-47 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod defeats the amendment.

Mr. Andrew Smith (WISC) moved to close debate.

09-GS-48 VOTED: The twenty-seventh General Synod votes to close debate on the motion.

09-GS-49 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod adopts the resolution "On the Roles of Church and Government in Addressing the Global Food Crisis."

RESOLUTION ON THE ROLES OF CHURCH AND GOVERNMENT IN ADDRESSING THE GLOBAL FOOD CRISIS

BE IT RESOLVED that as people of Christ, called to “feed the hungry”, the Twenty-seventh General Synod of the United Church of Christ, grieves at the breadth, depth and inequities of the present global food crisis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Wider Church Ministries and Justice and Witness Ministries are requested to produce resources to help United Church of Christ congregations understand this global food crisis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Wider Church Ministries and Justice and Witness Ministries are requested to find ways to help United Church of Christ congregations advocate for more just policies that will lead to food security and sovereignty.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that United Church of Christ congregations are called to study ways in which our consumerism leads to food insecurity. Such study would include, but not be limited to: the removal of land from agricultural production for corporate or private use, and our high demand for meat and other animal products.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that United Church of Christ congregations study and act upon ways to change our consumerist behaviors with the goal of creating a more food secure world.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all settings of the United Church of Christ are called to advocate for strengthening sustainable agricultural and fishing practices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we advocate on behalf of all those in our local communities and globally, whose vocational call is rooted in the harvest and production of food for the global family.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we advocate for stronger regulations on agricultural commodities, futures speculation, and fair and just distribution of food costs.

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.

IMPLEMENTATION

Justice and Witness Ministries and Wider Church Ministries are requested to implement this resolution.

16. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORT OF THOSE ELECTED TO THE COUNCIL FOR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

Mr. Humphrey called upon Ms. Edith Guffey, Associate General Minister, for announcements.

Ms. Guffey advised that if your congregation sent a candle cloth to the General Synod, please pick it or another cloth up before you leave.

She wished happy birthday to everyone who celebrated during General Synod.

She invited Obadiah Ballinger, Chair of the Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries, to report regarding those elected to the Council.

New members are:

Cody Tacderas, Katie Vivona, Jennifer Blackwell, Sean Kuhns, Hannah Snyder-Samuelson, Edily Davol, Lauren Stockless, Darryl Keith Floresca, Beau Heyen, Kayla Perry Smith, Jeffery Williams, Laura Boleen, Daniel Steiner, Meredith Jackson, Michelle Lampart and A. J. Lacefield.

Mr. Ballinger advised the Council is awaiting appointments from Disabilities Ministries, the Coalition for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Concerns, the Council of Hispanic Ministries, and the Council of American Indian Ministries.

17. RECESS

Mr. Humphrey declared the fifth plenary of the Twenty-seventh General Synod to be in recess until 2:30 PM.

Tuesday afternoon, June 30, 2009 Sixth Plenary Session

1. CALL TO ORDER

Assistant Moderator Jane Tedder called the Final Plenary of the Twenty-seventh General Synod to order.

2. SPEAKOUT!

Ms. Tedder called upon the following Speakout! participants.

1. Chris Breedlove (IK) bid farewell to Rev. Stephen Gray due to his upcoming retirement as Conference Minister and announced the Conference will be searching for a new conference minister soon.
2. Margie Good (PNE) invited everyone to participate in the National Organ Donor Sabbath, an annual ecumenical event that promotes organ donation. Over 90,000 organs are needed in this country. The website is www.donorsl.org
3. Matthew Karlovec (OH) respectfully asked that the lines of communication between the Executive Council and youth and young adults be improved before the next General Synod, increasing the participation of the youth choir and making budget information accessible.
4. Paul Clay (CA NV, N) asked everyone to think about representation of small town and rural people at General Synod, although the representation appears good at this meeting. Twenty percent of our members are in these settings.
5. Cindi Knox (IL) expressed gratitude for the ministry of people with developmental disabilities.
6. Sharon Temple (PNE) did a rap poem about General Synod youth projects.
7. Laverne Joseph (CA NV, S) extended an invitation to dedication services of retirement housing in Missouri, Colorado and Virginia. The Retirement Housing Foundation welcomes any properties that people want to divest.
8. John Kelly Poorman (PC) saluted St. John's United Church of Christ who accepted him as an openly gay man.
9. David McMahill (MINN) invited everyone to go to www.uccdm.org for resources on three issues approved at the 2005 General Synod regarding accessibility.
10. Marva Coleman (IL) advocated for sacred conversations in schools on child violence.

Ms. Tedder thanked all who participated in the Speakouts!

3. STILL SPEAKING REPORT

Assistant Moderator Tedder called upon Mr. Felix Carrion and Ms. Gwen Thomas to report on the Still Speaking Initiative. The report revolved around the purchase of cable advertisements.

4. RESOLUTION: SOLIDARITY AND FRIENDSHIP WITH IRAN

Ms. Tedder called upon Mr. Geoffrey Brace, Chair of Committee Four to present the action from that committee.

Mr. Brace moved the adoption of the substitute resolution “Solidarity and Friendship with Iran.” This resolution replaces the three resolutions received by General Synod. Mr. Brace spoke to the resolution.

09-GS-50 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod adopts the resolution “Solidarity and Friendship with Iran.”

SOLIDARITY AND FRIENDSHIP WITH IRAN

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

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

WHEREAS, The General Synod of the United Church of Christ is concerned about developments in Iran;

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

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

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

5. RESOLUTION: ON RESPONSIBLE MEETING PRACTICE

Assistant Moderator Tedder called upon Mr. Keith Scott, Chair of Committee Eight to present the action from that committee. Mr. Scott indicated the committee agreed in principle with the essence of the resolution and by consensus made changes to strengthen the language.

Mr. Scott moved the adoption of the resolution “On Responsible Meeting Practice” as amended by the committee. He then spoke to the resolution.

09-GS-51 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod adopts the resolution “On Responsible Meeting Practice.”

ON RESPONSIBLE MEETING PRACTICE

WHEREAS, the Tenth General Synod (1975) affirmed a “shalom” call to “wholeness, integrity, social justice and reconciliation” by being “responsible custodians of the natural order and prophetic witnesses for social justice”; and,

WHEREAS, the Fourteenth General Synod (1983), echoing the biblical image in Genesis chapters one and two of service to, and care of, all that God has created, proclaimed our covenantal responsibility “to understand the world as God’s creation [and therefore,] to understand our responsibility as God’s stewards, and our accountability to God as tenants”; and,

WHEREAS, the Seventeenth General Synod (1985) identified as a priority concern for six years “to address in a major, all-church effort a crucial concern of our time,” the Integrity of Creation, Justice and Peace, which affirmed “that the biblical vision of shalom—justice and peace and integrity of creation—is central to the Christian identity of members of the United Church of Christ,” and called for an “intentionally collaborative effort to address the Priority”; and,

WHEREAS, the Twenty-second General Synod (1999) resulted in the UCC becoming one of the first denominations to recognize the crisis of global warming and affirmed the biblical mandate of stewardship and kinship, and recognized that the response to such a mandate must emanate from “addressing our own lifestyles (institutional and personal)”; and,

WHEREAS, the Twenty-fifth General Synod (2005) embraced the connection between the common good for all peoples and responsible environmental stewardship by recognizing “that the integrity of creation and the health and sustainability of ecological systems is the necessary foundation for the well-being of all people and all living things for all time”; and,

WHEREAS, the Twenty-sixth General Synod (2007) affirmed that irresponsible human actions have created not only a “profound sense of urgency” for God’s creation, but also an unconscionably disproportionate “impact on those living in poverty, the least developed countries, the elderly and children and those least responsible for the emissions of greenhouse gases,” and “urge[d] all segments of the Church to address global warming in their decisions and investments and in their educational and advocacy efforts”; and,

WHEREAS, as people of faith we are privileged to be partners both as individuals and as faithful bodies (local churches, associations, conferences, and General Synod) with Jesus Christ, the firstborn of all creation (Colossians 1:15), in the good work of reconciling in justice and love the entire creation that it may again be one and whole; and, united church of Christ, its conferences

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has a history of responding powerfully to issues in which social justice and creation care are intertwined and inseparable, such as the apology to Native Hawaiian people, which emanated from the challenge issued forth at the Ecumenical Conference on Tourism in Hawaii in 1989, for the complicit role of our antecedent bodies in the overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy in 1893; and

WHEREAS, every day new practices and products emerge that reuse more resources and have the potential to reduce the amount of waste, pollution, and degradation we create, and provide new and just opportunities in an economy oriented towards creating a sustainable future for all that God has created; and,

WHEREAS, our choices of meeting venue can bear prophetic witness to a community, as exemplified by the Executive Council's decision to change the venue of the Twenty-sixth General Synod in commitment to be in solidarity with striking workers at our original venue despite the inconvenience it caused; and,

WHEREAS, we seek to be biblical people whose very actions reflect a life of true faithfulness;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-seventh General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges its churches and members to adopt personal, congregational, and community habits that reflect the interconnectedness and inseparability of creation care and social justice; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Synod encourages all expressions of the United Church of Christ (local church, association, Conference, and all national expressions) to plan and hold meetings, events, and programs in such a way that the interconnection and inseparability of creation care and social justice, as appropriate for the venue or location, are modeled; and that consideration is given to issues such as energy and water consumption, food origin, labor relations, waste and waste stream minimization, material re-usage and recycling, accessibility to all, and minimization of travel; and that education be offered to meeting attendees, local community members, and vendors on all these issues where possible and practical; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Justice and Witness Ministries, in consultation with Office of General Ministries, develop a document that offers guidelines and suggestions for responsible meeting practices to be made available to all expressions of the UCC; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that expressions of the United Church of Christ be encouraged to adopt this resolution and commit to its practice and implementation in all meetings within their settings; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-eighth General Synod in 2011 and all future General Synods after 2011 shall attempt to integrate this planning mechanism into its process, procedures, and execution.

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.

IMPLEMENTATION

Justice and Witness Ministries and Office of General Ministries are requested to implement this resolution.

6. RESOLUTION: MINISTERING TO THOSE STRUGGLING AND SUFFERING IN THE TROUBLED ECONOMY

Mr. Scott continued with the actions of Committee Eight by moving the adoption of the revised resolution "Ministering to Those Struggling and Suffering in the Troubled Economy." He then spoke to the resolution.

Following discussion, a motion was made and seconded to close discussion.

09-GS-52 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod votes to close discussion.

09-GS-53 VOTES: The Twenty-seventh General Synod adopts the resolution "Ministering to Those Struggling and Suffering in the Troubled Economy."

MINISTERING TO THOSE STRUGGLING AND SUFFERING IN THE TROUBLED ECONOMY

WHEREAS, the nation is facing economic problems of crisis proportions;

WHEREAS, the General Synod is meeting in Michigan, whose citizens are among the most adversely affected, with the loss of 700,000 jobs in the last seven years, with the highest unemployment rate in the nation and with metropolitan areas among the most distressed in the nation;

WHEREAS, people everywhere are losing jobs, being forced into foreclosure on homes, carrying heavy debts, going without health insurance, seeing retirement savings disappear, and facing poverty, dislocation and hunger;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 27th General Synod be in prayer and solidarity with those who struggle and are suffering due to the nation's economic crisis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 27th General Synod, meeting in the State of Michigan, recognizes it is among those who are bearing especially heavy burdens in the economic crisis, and pledges to hold these people, and all those adversely affected, in its prayers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 27th General Synod asks the national bodies of the United Church of Christ, its conferences, associations and local churches to undertake renewed efforts to envision, encourage, support, and strengthen spiritual refreshment and outreach ministries that serve those in distress due to issues such as unemployment, bankruptcy, dislocation, hunger, illness, and financial problems. To that end the following actions are encouraged:

1. That Local Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ continue to develop a web-based clearing house describing a full spectrum of human service and outreach ministries and programs that conferences, associations, and local churches are pursuing and might be duplicated throughout the United Church of Christ in order to help and serve people who are struggling and suffering in the economic crisis.
2. That each congregation in the United Church of Christ be urged to respond to the economic crisis by implementing additional ministries and programs for the unemployed, dislocated, indebted, hungry, and distressed in their churches and communities.
3. That each congregation in the United Church of Christ be urged to undertake teaching ministries that encourage the adoption of simpler, just, debt-free, and sustainable lifestyles for those in the churches and communities.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution of witness, calling for an increase in direct and charitable actions to serve those who are struggling and suffering in the current economic crisis, also recognizes and supports the past and ongoing work of the national bodies of the United Church of Christ and its Conferences, Associations and local churches to seek social justice through political action and advocacy to bring Christ's voice into the public arena to shape a more just society and global economic system.

FUNDING

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

IMPLEMENTATION

Local Church Ministries; The Proclamation, Identity, and Communication Ministry of the Office of General Ministries; and Justice and Witness Ministries are requested to collaborate and implement this resolution.

Mr. Mark Fuller (ME) called for a point of personal privilege. He spoke about global hunger which is not just about wheat. Those who are from maritime states understand that lobster workers cannot pay for the fuel that it takes to go to sea. It is important to recognize that food resources come from the sea.

7. RESOLUTION: SACRED CONVERSATIONS ON RACE

Ms. Tedder called upon Ms. Jennifer Barrett Siegal, Chair of Committee Three to present the actions from that committee.

Ms. Siegal moved the adoption of the resolution “Sacred Conversations on Race” as amended by the committee. She then spoke to the resolution.

09-GS-54 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod adopts the resolution “Sacred Conversations on Race.”

SACRED CONVERSATIONS ON RACE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the United Church of Christ, based on our commitment to the Gospel, call upon the conferences, associations and congregations to establish, promote, and encourage Sacred Conversations on Race, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Justice and Witness Ministries is requested to maintain and promote a list of recommended resources for Sacred Conversations on Race.

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.

IMPLEMENTATION

Justice and Witness Ministries is requested to implement this resolution.

8. RESOLUTION: AFFIRMING DIVERSITY/MULTI-CULTURAL EDUCATION IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Ms. Siegal continued with the actions from Committee Three by moving the adoption of the resolution “Affirming Diversity/Multicultural Education in the Public Schools.” She spoke to the resolution.

Ms. Arlene Nebring was granted voice to speak. Ms. Nebring called on the entire church to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. Gay children are given little affirmation of who they are. Recent suicides are a tragic reminder of this need. School leaders need resources to help combat bullying.

Ms. Melinda McLain (LCM) affirmed lines 67-61 directing Local Church Ministries to get engaged in local church settings.

Mr. David Runnion-Bareford, father of twelve children, most of color, opposes the resolution, but does not support bullying. Urged defeat of the proposal

Ms. Mary Nelson Abbott (VT) offered a friendly amendment to lines 7, 8, 24 and 25, adding the words “age and family structure.”

The friendly amendment was accepted by the Committee Chair.

09-GS-55 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General synod adopts the resolution “Affirming Diversity/Multicultural Education in the Public Schools.”

AFFIRMING DIVERSITY/MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, there are no exceptions, no foot-notes, no qualifiers to Jesus’ commandment to “love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22: 39, Mark 12: 31, Galatians 5:14, Romans 13: 9, James 2: 8);

WHEREAS, the love of God that we experience through Jesus Christ dispels our fears of those who are in any way “different” from ourselves; [1 John 4: 18]

WHEREAS, God accepts “all the people” as evidenced by Jesus’ breaking bread with the marginalized, to the dismay of the religious authorities of his day; [Matthew 9: 10-11, Mark 2: 16, Luke 5: 30]

WHEREAS, we confront in our own times the marginalization of people because of race, ethnicity, gender, ability, sexual orientation, and gender identity;

WHEREAS, children who are marginalized, or whose families are marginalized, are the targets of derision, bullying, and violence in schools and communities;

WHEREAS, public schools’ programs of diversity/multi-cultural education have been aimed at keeping all children safe from such emotional and physical intimidation and harm, and have met with national and local efforts to undermine diversity/multi-cultural education as a threat to “family values;”

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-seventh General Synod:

- Supports the efforts of organizations, especially public school districts, to develop programs that promote anti-bullying, safe schools, age and family structure acceptance of wide-ranging diversity;
- Affirms that diversity/multi-cultural education should embrace people of all races, ethnic origins, genders, faiths, abilities, sexual orientations, gender identities, socio-economic classes, countries of origin, and their families;
- Decries organized and systematic efforts to cast diversity/multi-cultural education in negative terms using fear and intimidation;
- Affirms and supports congregations, church leaders, and public school districts that are playing a prophetic role in the encouragement of diversity/multi-cultural education in their communities;

AND CALLS UPON—

Local Churches and Conferences to:

- Be aware of and keep alert to national and local efforts to undermine diversity/multi-cultural education in their public school districts;
- Call for processes and protocols for public discourse on diversity/multi-cultural education that ensure the inclusion of viewpoints representative of the whole community;
- Speak up in support of diversity/multi-cultural education from the perspective of their faith commitment and informed by the Bible’s overwhelming mandate to defend the cause of justice;
- Continue to address topics of age and family structure race, ethnic origin, gender, faith, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, socio-economic class, and country of origin within their congregations;

- Engage in public witness to affirm diversity/multi-cultural and to support those who are engaged faithfully in acts of inclusion;
- Develop and participate in broad-based ecumenical and interfaith coalitions that will advocate for anti-bullying, safe schools, and diversity/multi-cultural education in our public schools;
- Celebrate the diversity of individuals and families as a gift of God.

The Collegium to:

- Be aware of and keep alert to national and local efforts to undermine diversity/multi-cultural education in public school districts;
- Speak up in support of diversity/multi-cultural education from the perspective of their faith commitment and informed by the Bible's overwhelming mandate to defend the cause of justice;
- Develop awareness among ecumenical and interfaith partners about the importance of diversity/multi-cultural education that includes the experience of LGBT individuals and families in public schools in the United States.

The Office of General Ministries to:

- Develop awareness among ecumenical and interfaith partners about the importance of diversity/multi-cultural education that includes the experience of LGBT individuals and families in public schools in the United States;
- Collaborate with local UCC church leaders, Conferences, and other faith groups and secular advocacy organizations to develop and implement a national media strategy that affirms the value of diversity/multi-cultural programs in our public schools, and that supports the introduction and continuation of these vital programs.

Justice & Witness Ministries to:

- Alert Local Churches and Conferences to national and local efforts to undermine diversity/multi-cultural education in public school districts;
- Consult with and support faith leaders and public school leaders who have been besieged by opponents of diversity/multi-cultural education, to compile lists of resources and to document accounts of successful plans to promote diversity/multi-cultural education in our public schools, and of successful responses to groups that might otherwise undermine these efforts;
- Help Local Church and Conference leaders develop strategies that promote and sustain high-quality diversity/multi-cultural education programs so that Local Churches and Conferences may successfully advocate for and support the inclusion of these programs in local schools;
- Develop awareness among ecumenical and interfaith partners about the importance of diversity/multi-cultural education that includes the experience of LGBT individuals and families in public schools in the United States.
- Express the need for diversity/multi-cultural education that ensures more successful integration of refugees and immigrants into our public schools and communities, and reduces their experience of isolation and bullying.

Local Church Ministries to:

- Assemble resources and promote the use of diversity/multi-cultural education programs for Local Churches, Associations, Conferences and the national setting of the church which build on the United Church of Christ's capacity to practice what we are preaching about the importance of diversity/multi-cultural education in our public schools;

- Actively promote curriculum and resources that uphold anti-bullying, safe schools, and diversity/multi-cultural education programs in our public schools;
- Develop awareness among ecumenical and interfaith partners about the importance of diversity/multi-cultural education that includes the experience of LGBT individuals and families in public schools in the United States.

Wider Church Ministries to:

- Develop awareness among ecumenical and interfaith partners about the importance of diversity/multi-cultural education that includes the experience of LGBT individuals and families, in public schools in the United States and within mission partner schools around the world;
- Continue to help Local Church, Association, and Conference leaders develop a coalition of faith-based and secular non-profit organizations that will help local leaders introduce and advocate for diversity/multicultural education in their public schools that includes the experience of LGBT individuals and families;
- Express the need for diversity/multi-cultural education that ensures more successful integration of refugees and immigrants into our public schools and communities, and reduces their experience of isolation and bullying.

FUNDING

Funding for the implementation of the Resolution will be made available in accordance with the overall mandates of the Covenanted Ministries called upon and the funds available.

IMPLEMENTATION

Justice & Witness Ministries, Local Church Ministries, Wider Church Ministries, and the Office of General Ministries will be responsible for developing the strategies, programs, and resources to implement the Resolution.

There was a call for the Division of the House. Following a vote count, the above vote was confirmed.

9. RESOLUTION: A JUSTICE TOWN HALL GATHERING

Moderator Morgan called upon Ms. Margaret Irribarra, Chair of Committee Ten to present the action from that committee.

Mr. Irribarra moved the adoption of the resolution “A Justice Town Hall Gathering” and recommended no action. This leaves the conversation open for further development of this resolution.

Mr. Curtis Reuter moved to postpone action on the resolution “A Justice Town Hall Gathering” indefinitely.

09-GS-56 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod votes to postpone action on the resolution “A Justice Town Hall Gathering” indefinitely.

A JUSTICE TOWN HALL GATHERING

WHEREAS, the purpose and mission of Justice and Witness Ministries shall be to enable and encourage local Churches, Associations, Conferences, and the national expressions of the United Church of Christ to engage in God’s mission globally by direct action for the integrity of creation, justice, and peace.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that General Synod 27 establishes a town hall gathering of justice advocates within the United Church of Christ one day before the beginning of each General Synod at the site of the General Synod;

That the participants at this town hall gathering of justice advocates, which include both delegates and non-delegates to the General Synod, will put together a two-year justice platform for the United Church of Christ to strive for;

That during the year prior to the General Synod, the justice advocates in the conferences and regions will develop justice platforms that will be brought to the General Synod;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the planning for this town hall gathering of justice advocates will be done jointly by: 1) staff of the Justice and Witness Ministries of the United Church of Christ (JWM), 2) the Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries (COREM), 3) the program committee of the JWM board of directors, and 4) the Urban Ministry network.

10. REV. YVETTE FLUNDER'S REPORT OF MEETING WITH PRESIDENT OBAMA

Mr. Kevin Manz requested a few minutes of time for Rev. Yvette Flunder to report on her meeting with President Barack Obama the previous day. The President is committed to sending a bill to Congress to end the defense of the marriage act. The President wants to include capable and noteworthy participation of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people in the military service of this country.

11. OUR CHURCH'S WIDER MISSION "CHANGING LIVES" PRESENTATION

Ms. Tedder called upon Ms. Jane Heckles and Ms. Petra Malleis-Sternberg for the final "Changing Lives" presentation which centered around a thank you for gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission, One Great Hour of Sharing, Neighbors in Need, The Christmas Fund and Strengthen the Church offerings.

12. INVITATION TO THE TWENTY-EIGHTH GENERAL SYNOD

Moderator Marvin Morgan welcomed Mr. Kent Siladi, Florida Conference Minister, to the stage to present an invitation to the Twenty-eighth General Synod in Tampa in 2011.

13. RECOGNITION OF THE LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE

Mr. Morgan called upon Ms. Edith Guffey, Associate General Minister, to formally thank the Michigan Conference Local Arrangements committee and volunteers.

Ms. Guffey also gave thanks to national staff, recorders, floor coordinators and stewards, exhibitors and the Committee Process Team.

14. CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Morgan reported that the Credentials Committee report will be included in the minutes of the Twenty-seventh General Synod.

(SEE APPENDIX H: REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE)

He then thanked the General Synod Administrator, Ms. Edith Guffey, for her marvelous work and dedication.

15. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Edith Guffey advised that there will be no bar of the house for the final worship service this evening. She announced General Synod attendance totaled 3657 people.

16. INSTALLATION OF MODERATORS

Moderator Marvin Morgan invited the Moderator-elect and Assistant Moderators-elect to the stage. Mr. Morgan and Assistant Moderators Jane Tedder and John Humphrey installed Mr. James Robertson Jr. as Moderator, and Ms. Patricia Aurand and Ms. Carolyn Belsom as Assistant Moderators for the Twenty-eighth General Synod.

15. GENERAL SYNOD WRAP-UP VIDEO

The Proclamation, Identity, and Communication Ministry Team provided a look back at events of this Twenty-seventh General Synod.

16. ADJOURNMENT

On behalf of the Moderators, Mr. Morgan thanked everyone for their great participating during the past week and for their commitment to our denomination and the Church of Jesus Christ. He then recognized Mr. Jim Moos, Chair of the Executive Council.

With thanks to God, Mr. Moos moved the adjournment of the Twenty-seventh General Synod of the United Church of Christ at the conclusion of the evening's worship service.

09-GS-57 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod voted by applause to adjourn the Synod at the conclusion of the evening's worship service.

Rev. John Thomas, General Minister and President, offered thanks to the Moderator and Assistant Moderators for their service.

Mr. Morgan declared the Twenty-seventh General Synod to be in recess, to adjourn at the conclusion of the final worship service.

Worship

Preacher for the closing worship was the Rev. Patricia E. deJong, First congregational Church of Berkeley, CA. The offering was received for the Joseph Evans Scholarship Fund.

The Following Resolution was sent directly to an implementing body.

Earthwise Congregation: A Resolution on Mediating Climate Change

(A Prudential Resolution)

Submitted By: The Minnesota Conference

Summary Statement of Intent of the Resolution: Affirms the United Church of Christ as an environmentally conscious entity and provides a framework for individual congregations and the UCC as a whole to show unity and solidarity in mediating climate change and advancing justice through sustainability.

Background and Supporting Statement: The Twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ called 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.

In Genesis 2:15, God took the first human into the garden and gave instructions to "till and care for it." Genesis 9:15 reminds us that God is in a covenantal relationship with all beings: "I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind." When people today despair it is too late to save life on Earth, the Gospels remind us where to place our hope. In Mark 10:26-27, the disciples asked, "Who then can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."

Text of the resolution:

WHEREAS, the Twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ admitted Christian complicity in the damage human beings have caused to the Earth's climate system, urges responsible stewardship of God's creation, and expresses profound concern for the pending environmental, economic and social tragedies threatened by global warming;

WHEREAS, the Twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urged all segments of the Church to address global warming in their decisions and investments and in their educational and advocacy efforts;

WHEREAS, the Twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ called on the Covenanted Ministries of the United Church of Christ to address the severe nature of the global warming crisis as one of the most urgent threats to humankind;

WHEREAS, United Church of Christ congregations have successfully brought about culture change through church identification with significant community issues, via designations such as "Open and Affirming" or "Peace with Justice".

WHEREAS, congregations have begun to take action addressing climate change, and demonstrated the need for a cohesive and meaningful framework for action which will promote the change of culture necessary to transform and heal our current environmental crisis.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Twenty-seventh General Synod creates a new congregation designation, the Earthwise Congregation, thus answering the Twenty-sixth General Synod's

call for environmental stewardship. The Earthwise Congregation will be a body of action and a voice of hope, grounded in faith. The following statement defines the parameters for an Earthwise Congregation.

Earthwise Congregation

Addressing the charges set forth by the Twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ, selecting and adapting guidelines set forth by the community-based U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, and adding pertinent church-based guidelines, our congregation commits to the following actions and ideals:

- A. We will strive to meet or exceed meaningful targets for reducing global warming pollution by taking immediate actions, where possible, in our own operations, beginning with:
1. Promoting transportation options such as walking, bicycling, car pooling and public transit;
 2. Making energy efficiency a priority through building improvements, retrofitting facilities with energy efficient lighting and urging employees to conserve energy;
 3. Purchasing only Energy Star equipment and appliances for church use, including but not limited to refrigerators and freezers, dishwashers, dehumidifiers, room air conditioners, heating and cooling systems, audio and video, and office equipment.
 4. Maximizing recycling rates in church operations and promoting recycling in the community;
 5. Engaging in tree planting to increase shading on church property and to absorb CO₂, and promoting tree planting and urban reforestation elsewhere.
- B. Our congregation will establish an Earthwise Congregation committee which will complete the following tasks:
1. Conduct periodic energy audits of church facilities with the purpose of identifying a comprehensive, whole-church approach to improving energy efficiency and comfort, while helping to protect the environment.
 2. Conduct an annual review of new standards and new technologies, with the goal of maintaining meaningful greenhouse-gas reduction objectives and identifying effective ways of meeting those objectives.
 3. Create an annual Earthwise Congregation action-plan which identifies specific and meaningful steps the congregation can take in protecting the environment, and is individualized to the congregation's needs and strengths.
 4. Disseminate information to the congregation which is received from the Energy and Climate Working Group of the United Church of Christ, the Environment and Energy Task Force, the Justice and Witness Ministries, and related bodies.
- C. Our congregation will actively urge our local, state, and national governments, as well as businesses and industry, to respond to global warming with great urgency and firm leadership such as by:
1. Supporting 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,
 2. Supporting sustainable policies for international trade and investment,
 3. Investing in energy conservation, specifically in sustainable, renewable and affordable systems of transportation,
 4. Supporting sustainable and renewable systems of land use,
 5. Calling on business and industry to lead in responses to global warming through increased investments in efficient and sustainable energy technologies which are economically accessible and just.

- D. Our congregation will be a voice of hope in the climate crisis, grounding our action in faith:
1. Engaging in biblical study, theological reflection, prayer, and Christian education that celebrate God's creation, emphasize our role as stewards for creation, and lift up concerns about the impact of climate change on our global community.
 2. Creating new opportunities to connect faith and the care of the earth through worship and common life.
 3. Promoting a public dialogue around environmental issues that emphasizes our interconnectedness, casts a bold and urgent vision, and empowers communities to pursue change.
 4. Building relationships with other churches and organizations interested in pursuing environmental protection to share information and efforts.
 5. Acting as a resource for the dissemination of current and useful information on the topic of environmental stewardship to the community and its individuals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-seventh General Synod of the United Church of Christ endorses the Earthwise Congregation designation and by its adoption urges congregations from across the denomination to join this effort.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Justice and Witness Ministries is requested to assume the responsibility of consolidating and disseminating information to congregations seeking to address climate change.

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.

Implementation: The Justice and Witness Ministries and local congregations are requested to be the primary implementers of this resolution by voting to become Earthwise Congregations, and by following the guidelines set forth in the resolution.

The following resolution was sent to a previously established study group.

In Support of Physician Assistance in Dying

(A Resolution of Witness)

Submitted by: The Central Atlantic Conference

Background

There is nothing idyllic about dying. It is often bound up with pain, being alone, anxiety, anger, helplessness, resignation, denial and despair. Individuals who are dying slowly often go through severe, unrelenting and intolerable physical discomfort or pain, and laws prohibiting physician assistance in dying have the effect of forcing them to endure that suffering. These conditions clearly affect attitudes about living and dying.

Suffering is just a word until it happens to you or to someone you love. We can afford to theorize about death when it is not immediately before us. Suffering is one thing when it is an abstraction, but quite another when it is our own.

In a Harris Interactive Poll conducted in April 2005, 70% of the American public indicated their support for assistance in dying. In a poll of 1,000 physicians, conducted by the Finkelstein Institute and HCD Research in February 2005, 57% of those polled believe that it is ethical to assist an individual who has made a rational choice to die due to unbearable suffering.

The claim is sometimes made that a terminally ill person who elects to take lethal medication is not acting freely, but is responding to a variety of subtle pressures (from family members or society; concerns may be financial or otherwise). However, the terminally ill patient who is considering a hastened death by refusal of life support is just as vulnerable.

It is often the fortunate patient who can tell physicians to “pull the plug” - - for those who do not have a plug, assistance in dying is the humane and ethically equivalent solution.

Some people have difficulty in accepting physician assistance in dying since they feel this amounts to suicide, which is condemned by their religious beliefs. But, doesn't the person who can legally ask to be unhooked from a ventilator or feeding tube, knowing that he or she will die, in effect commit suicide? The word “suicide” is incorrectly used when applied to dying patients. A terminally ill patient who asks for medicine to help him or her die does not initiate the dying process. It is already underway and death cannot be prevented.

“Terminal sedation” is a procedure doctors legally use whose primary purpose is to relieve the suffering of a dying patient. With terminal sedation, the suffering patient is sedated to unconsciousness and all life-sustaining interventions, including nutrition and hydration are withheld. Generally, the patient then dies of dehydration, starvation, or some other intervening complication. Although death is inevitable, it usually does not take place for days or even weeks, depending on clinical circumstances. In the opinion of many, this is no different than a physician writing a prescription for a lethal dose of barbiturates for a terminally ill patient.

With respect to the argument that human life is sacred, and therefore should not be snuffed out under any circumstances, there is the counter argument that it is a desecration to needlessly let a dying human being continue to suffer. We must sanctify life to its natural end, but when we use medical technology to extend lives beyond their natural ends we must be careful of what we sanctify.

Dying is one part of the normal life process. That we die is certain. When and how we die is not. An individual on the threshold of death no longer has a choice between living and dying, but only the choice of how to die. We die only once, so we should choose to die well.

Some say that suffering is ennobling, as a way God sometimes tests and educates us (a sharing in Christ's passion and a union with the redeeming sacrifice which he offered), and is a natural part of dying that prepares the soul for the afterlife. These individuals would argue that only God should select the moment of death. But, perhaps, they need to ask two questions: Do they believe in a loving God? Do they believe their loving God would want them to suffer like that? The clear precedent of Jesus' countless efforts to alleviate suffering through his healing ministry, makes clear that there is no obligation incumbent upon us to endure suffering for its own sake.

It does not seem to be fear of death itself, but fear of what one might experience before death that terrifies most individuals who are terminally ill. Experiences of late-stage terminal illness include such things as panic attacks, loss of autonomy, severe body wasting, intractable vomiting, urinary and bowel incontinence, general lack of bodily control, failing memory, difficulties coping with domestic chores, the inability to eat/speak/or read, total dependence, and no longer being able to recognize or interact with loved ones. Plus, the fear of lingering on, fear of bankrupting one's family with medical costs, fear of burdening others, fear of abandonment, fear of the unknown, etc. These things clearly affect dignity, self-respect and personhood, and collectively contribute to questions about the meaning, value and purpose of life. They are recognized as more important than pain in the desire for a hastened death.

In November 1997, Oregon became the first State to adopt a physician assistance in dying law. As of the end of the year 2007 (more than ten years after the law took effect), there have been only 341 cases of physician assistance in dying (there were 49 deaths in 2007; that equates to 15.6 Death With Dignity Act deaths per 10,000 total deaths). Oregon has very specific guidelines in place to regulate the practice of physician assistance in dying. In short, physician assistance in dying is presented as an option that no one need exercise - - it remains a matter of individual choice. A decision to live may be the direct result of having the option to die. So, in Oregon, a prescription for a lethal dose of barbiturates is a dying patient's security blanket.

A study published in October 2007, in the Journal of Medical Ethics found physician assistance in dying does not lead to a "slippery slope" that disproportionately affects vulnerable people. The report debunks opponent arguments that claim the law targets at-risk groups. Drawing on the experiences in Oregon and Netherlands, where the practice is legal, the five researchers concluded that there was no evidence of heightened risk for the elderly, women, the uninsured, persons with low educational status, the poor, racial or ethnic minorities, or the disabled.

In general, the studies from Oregon portray the individuals opting for assistance in dying as very concerned about loss of independence and control over their lives. The Oregon Death with Dignity 2007 report reflected that, of the individuals who chose physician assistance in dying in 2007, all were covered by some form of health insurance, 88% were enrolled in hospice care, 90% were able to die at home, 69% had some college, and cancer was the most common diagnosis in 86% of the cases.

Anonymous surveys suggest that physicians in most states already act at the request of terminally ill patients to speed their death, albeit clandestinely and without regulation. Legalizing the practice could prevent any problems associated with secrecy.

On September 9, 2007, the American Medical Women's Association announced that it supports the right of terminally ill patients to hasten what might otherwise be a protracted, undignified, or extremely painful

death; that it believes physicians should have the right to provide a terminally ill patient with, but not administer, a lethal dose of medication so that the patient can hasten his/her death. The Association also supports the passage of assistance in dying laws, such as that passed in Oregon, which empower mentally competent, terminally ill patients and protects participating physicians.

On March 25, 2008, the American Medical Student Association adopted an aid in dying policy which states: "Terminally ill, mentally competent patients should have a measure of control over their death when faced with suffering which the patient finds intolerable. Doctors should have the right to provide such a patient with the means and/or knowledge to use medication to bring about a peaceful death.

Theological Statement

God intends that created life be more than simply the existence of a human organism. The Gospel of John reports Jesus as saying, "I came that you might have life, life in all its fullness," (John 10:10). Life is also a perishable gift. Mortality is universal. There is a time to be born and a time to die.

When medical science shifts from expanding the length and quality of life and begins simply to postpone the reality of death, the sacredness of life is no longer being served. Such prolongation may cause unnecessary suffering and/or loss of dignity while providing little or nothing of benefit to the individual.

God's will does not involve suffering beyond limits of human endurance. It does not honor God to cling to an existence that has become an empty shell. The continuance of a mere physical existence is neither morally defensible nor is it God's will.

When illness takes away those abilities we associate with full personhood, leaving one so impaired that what is most valuable and precious is gone, the mere continuance of the body by medicine or drugs is a violation of the person.

Many persons, because of their religious beliefs or for other reasons, will choose to draw the last possible breath, no-matter-what. That choice will remain for every person who wants it. Some others, when end-of-life suffering becomes unbearable, will decide that continued existence on earth without hope or meaning is no longer "life in all its fullness," in fact, it is no longer tolerable. They may ask to have the choice of a peaceful release.

God has granted humanity the right of personal choice, which must include the end of life. The gift of abundant life is more than the avoidance of death, and over-regard for the body, without proper concern for the needs of the person, or the human spirit, can become a kind of biological idolatry. What is required is a balanced appreciation of the whole person. At some point, an individual has the right to die and not be simply maintained.

We are co-creators with God, given free will, and the ability to make compassionate choices. The proposed Resolution, on grounds of compassion and choice, would permit physician assistance in dying to be legal if strict safeguards to prevent abuse are provided.

Since God has made human beings responsible for the very beginning of human life, it is consistent to assume that the same God has made the end of human life a human responsibility. Thus, the principle of the sanctity of human life must yield to the principle of self-determination when someone is terminally ill.

Choosing death with dignity over a life that has become either hopelessly painful and dysfunctional or empty and devoid of all meaning allows us to honor the God in whose image we were created.

The Resolution

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

WHEREAS, medical technology, pain management and palliative care have made great advances, yet some persons still face intolerable suffering during a terminal illness; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of medicine is to alleviate suffering, and sometimes ending a life is the only way to do it; and

WHEREAS, by establishing a set of procedures for legal assistance in dying, each State can ensure that only people who are truly terminally ill and of sound mind qualify for physician assistance in ending their lives, and can get out of an insufferable state if it comes to that; and

WHEREAS, the crucial question for dying patients is whether they are living or existing; and

WHEREAS, if the intent in withholding or with-drawing life sustaining treatment is to cause a merciful death, this purpose can be accomplished faster and more humanely, and at the time of the patient's choosing, by physician assistance in dying; and

WHEREAS, a terminally ill person no more commits suicide in taking a physician prescribed lethal dose of barbiturates than does a terminally ill person who asks to be unhooked from a ventilator or feeding tube, knowing he/she will die; and

WHEREAS, life's very sacredness means that it should not be allowed to linger in suffering or indignity, and that physician assistance in dying can be a greater form of respect for human life's sanctity; and

WHEREAS, it is clear that our loving God would not want anyone to suffer needlessly; and

WHEREAS, permitting a hopelessly ill person to die by not imposing extraordinary measures is widely accepted today by religious groups as being part of God's will; and

WHEREAS, physician assistance in dying is a last resort for those few cases in which Hospice care becomes ineffective or unacceptable to dying patients; and

WHEREAS, assistance in dying is well within the physician's role, since resorting to extreme measures to try to keep alive the terminally ill at all costs does not respect the patient; and

WHEREAS, denial of physician assistance in dying is, in fact, doing harm, when it perpetuates a patient's continued suffering; and

WHEREAS, in order to restore the balance between a physician's obligation to prolong life and the obligation to relieve suffering, a peaceful death to end such suffering must be acknowledged as a legitimate goal of medicine and as an integral part of a physician's responsibility; and

WHEREAS, individuals who don't want physicians to ease their pain in dying are free to follow that path, but they should not be allowed to require anyone else to die a painful, protracted and agonizing death; and

WHEREAS, current law, by prohibiting physician assistance in dying, favors those who believe it is immoral, legalization would give equal (not preferential) treatment to those who believe physician assistance in dying can be a principled moral choice.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Twenty-seventh General Synod supports physician assistance in dying, under very specific guidelines as determined by each State, when for an adult patient:

- (1) who has a terminal/incurable debilitating illness or condition
- (2) is expected to die within six months
- (3) who has periods of severe, unrelenting and intolerable physical discomfort or pain, without prospect of significant improvement, which is unacceptable to the patient
- (4) who is legally competent to make medical decisions and
- (5) is expressing a voluntary and personal choice to die

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.

IMPLEMENTATION

Justice and Witness Ministries is requested to implement this resolution.

The following resolution was sent directly to an implementing body.

A RESOLUTION ON THE URGENCY FOR ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE
A Resolution of Witness Adopted by the Connecticut Conference, October 18, 2008
Submitted December 22, 2008

Received-Office of General Ministries, December 31, 2008

SUMMARY

In light of the overwhelming accumulation of evidence concerning the danger presented by the changes in the global climate, the resolution reflects the urgency of the issue, asking for redoubled efforts on the part of the denomination, conferences and churches to stem the effects of global warming and to achieve a carbon-neutral footprint in the next seven years.

While there have been earlier resolutions concerning the need to attend to the environmental degradation we are experiencing, this resolution urges more vigorous and sustained leadership on the part of the United Church of Christ. Indeed, this resolution believes environmental action is the priority issue of our time.

In a statement made May 29, 2008, over 1700 leading scientists and economists in the U.S. sounded an alarm, stating that there needs to be a broad sense of urgency to stem the “irreversible consequences” of global warming:

We call on our nation’s leaders to swiftly establish and implement policies to bring about deep reductions in heat-trapping emissions. The strength of the science on climate change compels us to warn the nation about the growing risk of irreversible consequences as global average temperatures continue to increase. . . As temperatures rise further, the scope and severity of global warming impacts will continue to accelerate. . . There is no time to waste. The most risky thing we can do is nothing.

http://www.ucsusa.org/assets/documents/global_warming/Scientist_Economists_Call_to_Action_fnl.pdf

THEOLOGICAL AND BIBLICAL FOUNDATION

The text of the Pastoral letter of April, 2008 provides our theological and biblical foundation:

Humanity is asked to answer a call of stewardship understood as *care* for and solidarity *with* God’s good creation. The distinction between humanity and other created things begins to soften, inviting a profound kinship, all participating in a creation community. In a time of environmental concern, the church must respond with its gifts of faith and nurture to work against reckless, negligent, or prejudicial use of natural resources. . .

Our call to become good stewards in God’s ever evolving creation is reflected in the many resolutions passed addressing our environment. Beginning in 1959 with the Second General Synod, whereby there was a “call to Christian action in society, ‘includ(ing) (a) call for conservation and development of the Earth’s resources for the benefit of all people now and in the future.’” . . .

One thing is certain: for the love of the earth and one another, we may not remain indifferent. *We are called to face the challenges with a deep sense of urgency and hopeful attention.* (emphasis added)

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION ON THE URGENCY FOR ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

(Resolution of Witness)

WHEREAS, Scripture reveals God's will that humans shall have dominion (stewardship or responsibility) over all the earth (Genesis 1:26); that we must provide for the future, acting as trustworthy stewards (1 Corinthians 4:2) of the earth's finite resources on God's behalf (Genesis 41:46-57); that Jesus Christ teaches the church that our actions on the earth have cosmic consequences in God's will for redemption (Matthew 16:18-20)¹; and

WHEREAS, responsible stewardship of Creation is integral to Christian discipleship (General Synod resolutions 1959, 1975, 1989, 2005, 2007); and we are called to compassionate action on behalf of those who disproportionately bear the consequences of climate change and environmental degradation (General Synod resolutions 1977, 1983, 1989); and

WHEREAS, the scientific consensus concerning climate change persuades us that we must intensify our efforts beyond what has previously been adopted (General Synod resolutions 2005, 2007); and there is growing evidence that climate change is occurring at an accelerated rate and it is primarily caused by human activities; and unless the use of fossil fuels is immediately reduced, the amount of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere will reach irreversible harmful levels within the next two decades; and

WHEREAS, the evidence that glaciers and high altitude snow packs from the Andes to the Himalayas are melting at alarming rates is incontrovertible and the effects of this unprecedented circumstance has permanent life-threatening implications for millions of people in many regions of the world; and recent satellite and observational evidence indicates an unexpected rapid increase of global warming in the North polar region, some three decades ahead of warming trends projected by most computer models; and

WHEREAS, the projected long-term consequences of current trends include sea level rise, coastal flooding, wide-scale loss of species, migration of vector-borne diseases, and more heat-related episodes among vulnerable members of urban populations; and when taken together, these trends pose the most serious threat to humanity in recorded history and demand our urgent, immediate response to significantly alter our current course; and

WHEREAS, the Collegium of the United Church of Christ, in a pastoral letter issued on April 8, 2008, reminded us that "We may not remain indifferent. We are called to face the challenges, engage deeply and with hopeful attention... to invite those who seek and those who love, those who lament and those who act on prophetic and imaginative dreams, to journey with us, build greening places and spaces for the holy and one another;"

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the delegates to this Twenty-seventh General Synod of the United Church of Christ, declare a profound sense of urgency about the present and potential environmental and social consequences of climate change; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge the entire United Church of Christ, clergy and laity, officers and members, to listen carefully and prayerfully to the scientific consensus now available, to make education on these matters a priority throughout the United Church of Christ, and to take immediate steps, both individually and collectively, to address the changes required at all levels by this unprecedented global crisis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge all United Church of Christ churches to achieve energy conservation, material-use reduction and other life-style changes as soon as possible; and that we urge all conferences of the United Church of Christ to assemble and distribute currently available resource materials to assist members and churches to increase their level of “green” activity and practice within the next two to five years, with the aim of moving toward a carbon-neutral footprint over the next five to seven years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge the United Church of Christ, at all levels, to advocate the prompt enactment of state and federal legislation that will forward these practices throughout the nation and will support the creation of new international agreements that address the fundamental causes of climate change. Those actions include, but are not limited to:

- a. passage of meaningful cap and trade legislation on carbon emissions;
- b. enactment of stringent gas mileage standards for motor vehicles;
- c. incentives for investing in renewable sources of energy;
- d. financial disincentives for fossil fuel consumption;
- e. allocation of significant public finances for research and development of alternative energy technologies;
- f. meaningful participation in international treaty negotiation, thereby improving our country’s moral standing in the community of nations; and

¹1989 Resolution of the Connecticut Conference, UCC – *Solid Waste and Ecologically Sound Life*

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.

IMPLEMENTATION

Justice and Witness Ministries are requested to be the primary implementer of this resolution.

The following resolution was tabled indefinitely.

A JUSTICE TOWN HALL GATHERING

A Prudential Resolution

Submitted by; Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries

“For I the Lord love justice.” (Isaiah 61:8a)

Background

The Bible identifies Yahweh as a God of justice that loves justice. The United Church of Christ has, through the years, championed many issues of justice, but in its national setting is currently faced with daunting financial challenges which have diminished the number of staff working on justice issues even though the issues of justice are as pressing today as at any time in the history of the United States. For the United Church of Christ to truly be a “justice” church, it has to mobilize as many of its members as possible to build a coordinated effort to work at the issues of justice, in spite of the financial difficulties we are facing.

Theological and Biblical Foundations

One theologian wrote, “The most important thing I think we can observe is that Old Testament justice always has a vision of community in mind like the one articulated in Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 30. Central to the right ordering of competing interests is ‘the vision.’ And, of course, central to the vision is right relationship with God.” Justice is not charity. Justice in the Old Testament had a close relationship to righteousness. The Prophet Amos says, “But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.” (Amos 5:24) It is just one of the forty pairings of righteousness and justice that are found in the Hebrew Bible. (Genesis 18:19, 1 Kings 10:9, 2 Chronicles 9:8, Job 29:14, 37:23, Psalms 33:5, 72:1, 2, 89:14, 97:2, 99:4, 106:3, Proverbs 1:3, 2:9, 8:20, 21:3, Ecclesiastes 3:16, Isaiah 1:21, 27, 5:7, 16, 9:7, 16:5, 28:17, 32:1, 16, 33:5, 56:1, 59:9, 14, Jeremiah 9:24, 22:3, 15, 23:5, 33:15, Ezekiel 45:9, Hosea 2:19, Amos 5:7, 24, 6:12. See also Deuteronomy 16:19, 32:4, Job 8:3, 34:17, Psalms 37:28, 30, 82:3, 94:15, 112:5-6, 140:12-13, 146:7—8, Proverbs 18:5, 21:15, 29:26-27, Ecclesiastes 5:8, Isaiah 10:2, 59:15-16, Jeremiah 4:2, Ezekiel 18:8-9, Habakkuk 1:4, Zephaniah 3:5.)

The Resolution

WHEREAS, the purpose and mission of Justice and Witness Ministries shall be to enable and encourage local Churches, Associations, Conferences, and the national expressions of the United Church of Christ to engage in God’s mission globally by direct action for the integrity of creation, justice, and peace.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that GS XXVII establishes a town hall gathering of justice advocates within the United Church of Christ one day before the beginning of each General Synod at the site of the General Synod;

That the participants at this town hall gathering of justice advocates, which include both delegates and non-delegates to the General Synod, will put together a two-year justice platform for the United Church of Christ to strive for;

That during the year prior to the General Synod, the justice advocates in the conferences and regions will develop justice platforms that will be brought to the General Synod;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the planning for this town hall gathering of justice advocates will be done jointly by: 1) staff of the Justice and Witness Ministries of the UCC (JWM), 2) the Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries (COREM), 3) the program committee of the JWM board of directors, and 4) the Urban Ministry network.

[The funding for the implementation of the resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.]

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.

IMPLEMENTATION

Justice and Witness Ministries is requested to work with the Office of General Ministries and the Administrator of the General Synod to implement this resolution.

**TWENTY-SEVENTH GENERAL SYNOD
VOTING DELEGATES**

Executive Council

Ambler, David
Anakalea, Ramsay
Anderson, David P.
Anderson, Jane
Avison, Jean
Bain, Greg
Ballinger, Obadiah
Baum, Phyllis
Baumer, Marti
Betz, Krista
Broadnax, Dorinda
Brown, Carol
Call, Sue Shadburne
Camp, Stephen
Charles, Marcia
Clark, W. Mark
Craig, Jennifer
Davis, Sharon
Dent, Phyllis
DeSaegher, Norma
Donnelly, Jason
Downs, Michael
Dunkerson, Roddy
Epke, William
Fiero, Rita
Floresca, Carlos
Frieberg, Charles
Galabrun, Margie
Goze, Michael
Gregory-Davis, John
Guffey, Edith
Hagler, Graylan
Hanks, Barbara
Hanson, Christine
Hart, Donald
Hoffman, Kathleen
Holeman, Brian
Holland Jr., Luther
Humphrey, John
Hyde, Elizabeth
Ito, Ann

Executive Council (cont.)

Jahn, Caroline
Jaramillo, M. Linda
Joseph, Debra
Kemp, Pierson
Krabill, Joe
Lance, Paul
Lovett, Campbell
Lowe, Penny
Luckenbaugh, Doyle
Maki, James
Malena, Daryl
Manz, Kevin
McClelland, Doug
McLain, Melinda
Mears, David
Mereschuk, Christopher
Miller, Alan
Molsberry, Robert
Moos, James
Morgan, Marvin
Myers, Gary
Nebot, C. Ali
Neevel, Mary Ann
Penrose, Leslie
Poole, Anita Louise
Rendon-Thompson, Esther
Rogers-Witte, Cally
Saetre, David
Satin, Barbara
Schwerdt, Alfred (Fred)
Sickbert, Bryan
Stern, Stephen
Tedder, Jane
Thomas, John
Tigner, Libby
Tuiasosopo, P. David
Vasarhelyi, Joseph
West, A. Rebecca
Whistler, Josh
Wickland, Arlinda
Wooten, Douglas

Justice & Witness Ministries

Anderson, Roseann
Banks-Anderson, PamelaJune
Barnes, Charles
Blackdeer, Bernice
Brown, Scott
Burt, Carole
Campbell, Linda
Darnell, James
Davis, Deborah
Denton, Michael
Frazier, Kathryn
Fujiyoshi, Ron
Hall, Susan
Hatch, Dan
Hudson, Jo
Jackson, Dian
Jackson, Norman
Lizardy-Hajbi, Kristina
Nguyen, Vy
Osgood, Paul
Peterson, Rich
Rodriguez, Miguel
Sadler, Paul
Self, Howard
Steffen, Lloyd
Tamayo, Sonsiris
Tysver, Dan
Ward, Fredd
Williamson, Carolyn
Woo, Melissa

Local Church Ministries

Bennekamper, Diane
Chance, Jo Ann
Clayton Jenkins, Courtney
Davidheiser, Katherine
Garrett-Larsen, Dawn
Gilman, John
Golden, Jean
Kamanu, Richard
King, Constance
Lawrence, Nancy
Michalsen, Ted
MillerShank, Holly
Pagan-Banks, Marilyn
Pater, Shannon Michael

Local Church Ministries (cont.)

Perkin, Herbert
Peterson, Kevin
Peterson, Sharyl
Quandt, Jane
Rajaratnam, Niloufer
Ruggles Sr., Ronald
Schemmel, Margaret
Schuster, Richard
Spollett, David
Stanley, Carol
Thornton, Archie
Ullman, Bob
Ulmer, Kenneth
Wargo, Janice
Williams, Carol
Willis, R. Joaquin

Office of General Ministries

Baker, Jill
Bennett, Richard
Bradshaw, Anita
Chang, Hojun
Chong, Eleanore
Clement, Elizabeth
Daniel, Barbara K.
Ewers, Jim
Forman, Kathleen
Gall, Donald
Kennett, Elizabeth
Kilmer, Julie
Lingo, Dory
Long, Cody
McCormick, Gay
Nixon, Fred
Pantermuehl, David
Ponnuraj, Youngren
Ressler, Tom
Reyes, Michiko
Rotblat-Walker, Susan
Sejnoha, Joseph
Shands, Susan
Spellman, Kaji
Walker-Wilson, Felicia
White, Richard
Worcester, George

Wider Church Ministries

Ballou, Angela Menke
Blaylock, Fay Ann
Blood, Deborah
BlueCoat, Louie
Braksick, Norm
Buttrick, Faye
Carpenter, Charles
Downer, Alyce
Filomeno, Julio
Greenlee, Wyatt
Harris, Patsy
Hazeltine, Mary Frances
Head, Tauoa
Loucks, Lester
Ludwig, Zora
Marsh, Corliss
Martin III, Oliver
Michaelsen, Peter
Miller, Elaine
Newton O’Gorman, Joan
Newton-Edwards, Loyce
Purscell, Kendra
Royer, Ariel
Rueter, Curtis
Schafer, Darla
Staigmiller, Nancy
Tanuvasa, Foa
Thompson, Carolyn
Tso, Bing
White Leon

CONFERENCES

California, Nevada Northern (10)

Burgess, Faith
Cimarra, Leian
Clay, Paul
Dawson, Jack
DeWitt, Sophia
Dimond, Erin
Duhaylungsod, Dennis
Flunder, Yvette
Peters, Alex
Vigil, Evelyn

California, Nevada Southern (11)

Allen, Jerry
Brecht, Susan
Buller, Deb
Hoeger, Wally
Landis, Scott
LePage, Terry
Rainey, Carol
Suiaunoa, Silomiga
Swick, Janell
Tuttle, Myrna
Zarro, Joe

Calvin Synod Acting (3)

Kacso, Istvan
Poznan, Bela
Slemp, Marla

Central Atlantic (19)

Baden, Delores
Barrino-Smith, Mary
Canada, Christian
Catlett, Delancy
Emery, Anne
Evans, Joan
Ferguson Kamara, Barbara
Griffey, Gregory

Central Atlantic (cont.)

Holzbaur, Linda
Kennedy, Peggy
Kim, Hyo-Jung
Peters, Robert
Petersen, Jessica
Rhodes, Barbara
Rock, Robert
Shesler, Christine
Stevens, Scott
Tietje, Adam
Ziegler, Robert

Central Pacific (4)

McDougle, Gail
Oettinger, Elizabeth
Poinsette, Bruce
Vandiver, Richard

Connecticut (51)

Beard, Laura
Bergan, Gail
Braddock, Matthew
Brenner, Peter
Burger, Steven
Bush, Michael
Chapman, Elsie
Clapsaddle, Denise
Comins, Norma
Cooke, Judith
Dahlberg, Hilary
Davol, Emily
Downer, Madelyn
Duncan, Helen
Dunlap, William
Dunn, Laura
Fecenko, Ted
Gage, John
Gingras, Jennifer
Gray, Tracy

Connecticut (cont.)

Hayes, Joelle
Hoare, Kim
Ives, Donna
Kidwell, John
Lewis, Kathryn
Manocchio, Donna
Martz, Ruth Anne
Mitchell, Frank
Morrow, Scott
Morton, Janice
Ormerod, Elizabeth
Pagan, Luis
Parker, Colin
Patton, Craig
Peterkin, Kenneth
Peters, David
Ramos, Jacqueline
Roberts, Keith
Robertson Jr., James
Rutherford, Carley
Sneed, Sara
Stark, Casey
Stevenson, Mark
Turner, Edward
Villers, Allegra
Walker, Martha
Watson, Carrie
Wilson, Barnard
Wilson, Nereida
Young, David
Youngberg, Stanley

Florida (16)

Anderson, Richard
As-Salaam, Aqueelah
Carson, Richard
Castillo-Roman, Ileana
Havens, Allen
Lisle, Janet
O'Connell, Danielle
Possell, Linn
Reif, Joel
Richardson, Roger
Robinson, Neill
Sherwood, Susan

Florida (cont.)

Thompkins, Charlayne
Wells, Angela
White, Phil
Woodard, Tim

Hawaii (10)

Kaupu, David
Kaupu, Joelle
Kitamura, Kathy
Kojima, Robb
Llana, Teddy
McShane Burke, Napua
Mercado, Wahineaukai
Ogoshi, Janice
Orikasa, Warren
Schwab, Chris

Illinois (49)

Bates-Davis, Gracie
Boorsma, Steve
Bradley, Juanita
Cannon, Lauren
Carey, Seth
Cofoid, Mimi
Conser, Nan
Damrow, Brian
Dart, Roger
Ewing, Stephanie
Frias, Miguel
Gastiger, Joe
Gavin, Cyndi
Harmison, Harold
Harper-Jones, Alice
Henry, Rovin
Hill, Charlene
Knox, Jesse
Kouns, Suzanne
Kromphardt, Nikki
Linder, Michael
Lohrbach, Sarah
MacPherson, Wayne
Maney, Charles
McNeal, Bennett
Mileo, Nan

Illinois (cont.)

Moh, Wookbin
Moore, Kirk
Morton, Pat
Nagy, Amanda
Reinwald, Rich
Rosa, Jose
Santucci Murawski, Jeanne
Schmidt, Don
Scott, Kieth
Selby, Bob
Selby, Martha
Smith, Jan
Smith Davis, Edward
Stewart, Erik
Stewart, Ruth
Thompson, Paul
Turley, Beth
Washington, Harlette
Wickler, Pat
Wood, Kim
Woodle, Rebecca
Zelaya, Cameron
Zimmerman, Doug

Illinois South (15)

Captain, Rosemary
Cross, Sheryl
Franke, Roseanne
Fuchs, Susan
Hartenstein, Mary Beth
Horn, Ivan
Kaburick, Larry
Kramer, Kenneth
Kuergeleis, Tom
Luer, Nicholas
May, Charles
Rizzo, Lana
Shubert, Nancy
Wagner, Ched
Wagner, Don

Indiana-Kentucky (20)

Arend, Joshua
Bluhm, Marge
Breedlove, Amy
Breedlove, Christopher
Frye, Peter
Gardner, John
Hawkins, Altonette
Holderbaum, Larry
Jackson Sr., John
Jacobson, Denise
Lechleidner, Rita
Leslie, Karyl
Lewis, Beverly
Lipinczyk, Karen
Roth, Michael
Sickelka, Shannon
Solecki, Kathy
Strueh, Lisa
Ziegler, Valerie
Zurcher, Vernon

Iowa (20)

Aurand, Patti
Brandt, Barbara
Carnes, Megan
Cook, Pamela
Corr, Phil
Dack, Michael
Dilley, Elizabeth
Ewert, Ben
Filkins, Hannah
Hamilton, Bob
Koepcke, Robert
Lloyd, Allyson
Lorenzen, Mackenzie
Moreano, Edwin
Porteo Paff, Chris
Ritters, Jim
Sargent, Marilyn
Sheridan, Leslie
Thomason, Jess
Wells, Kenneth

Kansas-Oklahoma (7)

Askew, R. Samuel
Cormack, Kent
Jones, Scott
Lazzer, Viola
Rains, Debra
Wachowski, Jennie
Wolfe, Nancy

Maine (13)

Carter, William
Duncan, Nancy
Flores, Carol
Fuller, Marc
Hancock, Tom
Insley, Connie
Krueger, Joel
Munn, Elliot
Neilsen, Douglas
Oliver, Herb
Pettingill, Marie
Trefethen, Kelsea
White, Anita

Massachusetts (47)

Adkins, Paul
Aldinger, David
Bail, Carrie
Barrett Siegal, Jennifer
Bogle, Frances
Borel, Christina
Butcher, Nancy
Caldwell, Quinn
Cartmell, Susan
Clark, Deborah
Duffill, Mercy
Ferrell-Jones, Sylvia
Fowler, Malcolm
Fritz, Karen
Goodson, Roger
Graham, Jill
Groggett, Frank
Ham, Peter
Hanks, Richard

Massachusetts (cont.)

Hilliard, Richard
Holton, Dile
Hyde, Robert
Iannetti, Lawrence
Johansen, Robert
Kavich Girash, Reebee
Kennedy, Elizabeth
Kidd, Anastasia
Kidd, Chad
Lamarche, Nicole
Lawrence, Richard
Ledger, Dee
Lenk, Jean
Medeiros, Raymond
Michel, Linda
Olmsted, Kathy
Owens, Christo
Page, Jonathan
Pawle, Elva
Peck, Stephen
Phillips, Sherley
Riddle, John
Sangster, Elizabeth
Schmidt, Greg
Scovil, Diane
Scovil, James
Tosh, Ian
Vanderhart, Wendy

Michigan (22)

Adamson, Mable
Brown, Michelle
Curenton, James
Erickson, Kay
Gutting, James
Hazel, Kimberly
Jenuwine-Otto, Julie
Kenney, Patti
Koebel, Elizabeth
Kothe, Lisa
Lashbrook, Steve
Linke, Stephen
Pancost, Roger
Petty, Todd

Michigan (cont.)

Phelps, Penny
Purcell, Mary Alice
Redding, Mulik
Shareef, Sameerah
Stutz, Kurt
Sullivan, Jim
Valentine, Christine
Wheeler, David

Minnesota (18)

Beck, Ruth
Becker, David
Britt, Don
Christopherson, Aleta
Cook, Phil
Fleming, Sylvia
Flynn, Gabe
Haefner, Bridget
Jaimez, Jennifer
Leary, Marlyne
Lemke, Nick
Lyndes, Derek
Mann, Dana
McNamara, Alan
Moteelall, Sham
Small, Michael
Stradskov, Elinor
Thompson, Al

Missouri Mid-South (22)

Abel, Brady
Albert, Mary
Atkinson, Bob
Bathke, Joyce
Baur, Bob
Branom, Teddy
Cook, Paul
Fink, Laverne
Hackman, Markita
Hebert, Becky
Kelly, Bob
Langbon, Albon

Missouri Mid-South (cont.)

Lischer, Eileen
Mignerone, Jeff
Moeller, Bruce
Philip, Margaret
Privitt, Josh
Singer, Betty
Sprivey, Clint
Stalling, Gary
Stenger, Linda
Thorne, Susan

Montana-Northern Wyoming (3)

Baier, Janice
Harris, Kimberly
Shober, Peter

Nebraska (10)

Cassiday, Jerry
Cook, Judy
Cross, Mary Beth
Ellefson, Jane
Erickson, Nancy
Eskilsen, Gerald
Hagaman, Jailyn
Hemmerling, Barry
Ouderkirk, Kim
Rahorst, Kathy

New Hampshire (14)

Clement, Martha
Durgin, Diane
Gilbert, Lolly
Hatfield, Douglas
Howe, Janice
James, Molly
Larsen, Nora
Larson, Rebecca
Littlefield, Connie
Noyes, Doris
Pontoh, Sandra
Rardin, Jared
Richardson, David
Rogers, Kate

New York (23)

Clarke, Ashley
Comer, Kenneth
DeNise, Virginia
Dennebaum, Peter
Farr, Patricia
Gibson, Susan
Heckman, David
Hurd, Anne
Krause, Brian
Martin, David
Phillips, Margo
Reichard, Abigail
Robinson, Lisa
Schaper, Donna
Turturro, James
Twyman, Al
Van Cleef, Ann
Werley, John
Werner, Lucy
Wilson, Ruby
Withers, Anne
Wood, Diane
Wright, Peter

Northern Plains (3)

Hartman, Karen
Holt, Ethelind
Zimmerman, Jared

Ohio (61)

Bagley-Bonner, Judy
Balla, Philip
Bastin, Al
Bastin, Emily
Castle, Michael
Chasney, Wayne
Coore, Dorothy
Davis, Jeffrey
Deeg, Gretchen
Deuring, Ray
Diehl, Pete
Dixon, Tim
Erb Strang, Becky

Ohio (cont.)

Flickinger, William
Franklin, Kevan
Godby, Marti
Goist, Stephen
Green, Tina
Hill, David
Hutchinson, Kenneth
Hutchinson, Sandra
Jacobsen, Sharon
Karlovec, Matt
Keller, Sue
Kelley, Alana
Kerstetter, Merlin
Clamar, Courtney
Kutschbach, Bob
Lacefield, A. J.
Lust, Becky
McKarns, Anne
Milligan, Tom
Millwater, Nancy
Nelson, Jeffrey
Nelson, Sharon
Nirote, William
Oliver, Leslie
Orlow, Manfred
Parries, Nate
Pressley, Kendra
Quellhorst, Pam
Rine, Cody
Roeger, Jeff
Schmidt, Dale
Schroer, Joyce
Shirey, Dianne
Sickinger, Daniel
Bath, Elaine
Sunday, Becky
Suriano, Mark
Terrill, Elizabeth
Thompson, Mark
Tullis, Elaine
Tyson, Cynthia
Vivona, Katie
Wagner, Keith
Wells, Gail
Wylie, Christine
Young, Gwendolyn

Pacific Northwest (6)

Coleman, Hillary
Hanson, Don
Iribarra, Margaret
Johnston, Marj
Miller, Tom
Roon, Amy

Penn Central (30)

Beall, Julia
Boyer, Allyssa
Bremmer, Laura
Carbaugh, Chester
Compton, Jane
Deaner, Frank
Dickert, Michelle
Dodds, Patricia
Eberly, Roger
Emig, Peter
Frank, Brent
Heasley, Kenneth
Heiss, Richard
Hostetter, Carole
Hughes, Diane
Hughes, James
Loser, Elizabeth
Loser, Michael
Mason, Don
McCausland, Faith
Namet, Rebecca
Poorman, John
Rankin, Christopher
Stiffler, David
VonBlohn, Sharon
Wagner, Nancy J.
Weidler, Dennis
Wetzel, Donald
Young, Lisa
Zobeck, Bonita

Penn Northeast (25)

Arroyo, Amilcar
Azar, Nancy
Beckwith, Becky
Brace, Geoffrey
Dech, Kathryn
Diefenderfer, Ernest
Eckroth, Michael
Esslinger, Lori
Fink, Jennifer
Finney, Emmajane
Fleming, David
Good, Theodore
Herring, Cliffert
Hilliard, Lunnett
Joseph, Sharon
Knappenberger, Jackie
Kohler, Joyce
Merkel, France
Newburgh, Monica
Ragan, William
Rarick, Gary
Sandrock, Curtis
Stevenson, Bruce
White, Mia
Zeigler, Bekki

Penn West (9)

Call, Verna
Duncan, Edgar
McDonald, Keith
McDonald, Rachel
Mears, Nancy
Morton, Mary
Newell, Robert
Sadler, Glenn
Shaffer, Alisa

Pennsylvania Southeast (28)

Balmer, David
Becker, Sandy
Cafurello, Sandy
Diroff, Nicole
Ebling, Vera Mae
Hauze, Jonathan
Henning, Jonathan
Holder, Douglas
Hughes, Barbara
Hunsberger, David
Jarinko, Sally
Jones, Cathy
Jones, John
Kershner, Barbara
Krody, Nancy
Kulp, Doris
Lampman, Lynn
Latshaw, Kathryn
Meier, Judith
Miller, Alberta
Moore, Bonnie
Ohnsman, Steve
Schwartz, Donald
Sell, Amelie
Soans, Chandra
Sullivan, Lori
Thomas, Patti
Werley, Jimmy Lee

Rhode Island (4)

Howard, Gwendolyn
Miller, Amanda
Schall, Helen
Tripp, Joe

Rocky Mountain (8)

Bliss, Bernie
Clark, Kelly Jo
Cochran, Ann
Hinkley, Will
Peterson, Craig
Piggett, Nancy
Silver, Alice
Smiedendorf, Todd

South Central (9)

Ashley, Rick
Barber, Dave
Brown, Wilmer
Burnes, Florence
Carpenter, Jerry
Fox, Kathy
Johnson, Sally
Lehnhoff, Carline
Schemmer, Ruth

South Dakota (7)

Carr, Ellis
Fugman, Donanne
Hoy, Cindy
Jankord, Brad
Knigge, Irwin
Mitchell, Jay
Williams, Melinda

Southeast (6)

Crabb, Jim
Elrod, Jeanne
Gager, Dorothy
Graves Thomas, Bette
Rich, Jeremy
Robbs, Vanessa

Southern (20)

Andes, Kristin
Barlow, Ronald
Barrow, Beatrice
Cassiday, Warren
Freeman, Ryan
Gregg, Carla
Haves, Sloane
Howell, Danielle
James, Brenda
Johnson, Dian
Jones, Johnnie
Kennett, Jay
McNair, Cheryl
Milton, Alexis
Muse, Julia

Southern (cont.)

Peeples, Julie
Schiemann, Elizabeth
Simonds, James
Smedberg, Amy
Williamns, David

Southwest (6)

Bird, Caryn
Dunn, Patricia
Franklin-Hicks, Davin
Marquis, Alissa
Stevens Whitney, Susan
Veziroglu, Michael-Ann

Vermont (8)

Abbott, Mary
Axtell, Rachel
Cadmus, Laura
Ford, Michael
James Jr., Stanley
Kinder, Thomas
Thomas, Jim
Webster, Eric

Wisconsin (33)

Beebe, Rae Ann
Benson, Beth Ann
Biggs, Mary Ann
Bixby, Wesley
Brissee, Nancy
Brown, Tisha
Clyma, William
Fauth, Douglas
Feller, Melinda
Finger, Theodore
Finley, Moira
Fluechtling, Rich
Gorton, Kristin
Hazen, Eldonna
Hollister, James
Hoppert, Jim
Iverson, Sally

Wisconsin (cont.)

Jamison-Finger, Trinaka
Larson, Cindy
Leatherberry, Eliza
Merriman, Carol
Morris, Carolyn
Nettesheim, Greg
Niederfrank, Donald
Payden, Deborah
Pearson Wahlers, Ann
Rishel, William
Schaub, Pat
Schultz, Laura
Schwinn, Mark
Smith, Andrew
Van Horn, Janene
Wetterlin, Dorothy

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Nancy Cope

Recorders

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Editing Proofreader

Denise Shimell

**Adopted and Approved by the Executive Council of the General Synod
Sunday, October 18, 2009**

Lee Foley

Minister for Governing Body Relations

Edith A. Guffey

Administrator of the Twenty-seventh General Synod

APPENDIX A – CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE ROSTER

Twenty-seventh General Synod Credentials Committee

Class of 2009

Caryn Bird—Southwest Conference
Erin Dimond—California Nevada Northern Conference
Frank Mitchell—Connecticut Conference
Edwin Moreano, Chair—Iowa Conference
Susan Thorne—Missouri Mid-South Conference

Class of 2011

Joshua Arend—Indiana Kentucky Conference
James David—Nebraska Conference
Christy Germann—Illinois South Conference
Sham Moteelall—Minnesota Conference
Edward Smith Davis—Illinois Conference

APPENDIX B – SECOND REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

SECOND REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Executive Council met Wednesday June 24, 2009 – Thursday June 25, 2009 at the Amway Grand Hotel, Grand Rapids, Michigan in preparation for the Twenty-seventh General Synod held Friday June 26, 2009 – Tuesday June 30, 2009.

It was VOTED
09-06-EC-04

to accept the report of Hispanic Ministries Implementation Team.

HISPANIC MINISTRIES IMPLEMENTATION TEAM REPORT TO THE XVII GENERAL SYNOD United Church of Christ Resolution for Action

BACKGROUND:

WHEREAS, the General Synod XVI held in 1987 established The Hispanic Ministries Implementation Team (HMIT) to intentionally address Hispanic ministry needs in different settings of the United States and in Puerto Rico.

WHEREAS, the HMIT, composed of national instrumentality executives (now Covenanted Ministries), Hispanic national staff, the Regional Presidents of the UCC Council for Hispanic Ministries (CHM), and one representative each from COREM, the Coalition for LGBT Concerns, and the Council of Conference Ministers, was charged with developing and implementing a Plan of Action in order to meet the General Synod mandate.

WHEREAS, the HMIT has experienced a collaborative working relationship with the national instrumentalities and current covenanted ministries of the UCC during the last 21 years.

WHEREAS, the HMIT has reported its accomplishments and challenges to every General Synod since 1987, with each report reflecting the compelling needs of Hispanics in the church and society.

WHEREAS, CHM has incorporated its strategic goals and objectives into its advocacy ministry from 1987 to 2008, implemented at the regional and national levels of the CHM.

WHEREAS, CHM convened a summit in 2006 with representatives from all of its four organized CHM regions, each with a particular reality, both in their country of origin and their current context in the United States.

WHEREAS, the 2006 summit participants analyzed the effects of the significant demographic growth, social and economic difficulties and capacity for development of issues that have been, more often than not, overlooked by national and conference settings of the UCC.

WHEREAS, the 2006 summit participants further defined the programmatic relationship between CHM and the national covenanted ministries and conferences for mission efforts with the Hispanic population.

WHEREAS, HMIT met in Cleveland in November 2008, co-convened by CHM President and a designated national staff as designed in the original General Synod Proposal. Present were representatives of CHM national staff, CHM Regional Presidents, the Coalition for LGBT Concerns, and one member of the Collegium. Based on the determination of those present at the November 2008 HMIT meeting, the following action is recommended.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Hispanic Ministries Implementation Team recommends that the HMIT cease to exist following General Synod XXVII.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hispanic Implementation Team expresses its appreciation to General Synod and the Executive Council for their support throughout the past 21 years. Also acknowledged is the past participation of conference and association representatives and executives of the former instrumentalities and covenanted ministries who supported this new emphasis of collaboration and solidarity. Special acknowledgement and gratitude is extended to the emerging Hispanic leadership within the UCC family.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council for Hispanic Ministries will assume the responsibilities for the future Hispanic Ministries Plan of Action.

BE IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council for Hispanic Ministries and the Hispanic Ministries Implementation Team jointly call a Special Assembly in 2009 for the purpose of ensuring an effective transition of the HMIT Plan of Action into CHM's structure and strategic direction. Invited will be six conference ministers, representatives from each of the national covenanted ministries, a member of the Coalition, and a member of COREM.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the funds designated for HMIT in the 2009 Executive Council Budget will be available to assist with expenses for this Special Assembly.

Please Note: The Council for Hispanic Ministries and the Hispanic Ministries Implementation Team are two distinctive, but interconnected bodies.

The United Church of Christ Council for Hispanic Ministries, formed in 1977, is an autonomous body working cooperatively with local churches, associations, conferences, regions, and other ministries of the United Church of Christ. It offers a perspective that honors the context and culture of its members while encouraging intercultural, interfaith, and international dialogue among all constituencies. The Council shall promote its mission within the United Church of Christ and work the Church to monitor boards and ministries that deal with concerns and issues

important to Hispanics/Latinos/Latinas in the USA, Puerto Rico, Mexico and other nations of the Caribbean and Central and South America. (Bylaws of the United Church of Christ)

The Hispanic Ministries Implementation Team, created by General Synod in 1987, was established to address Hispanic ministry needs in different settings of the United States and in Puerto Rico. The HMIT was composed of all national instrumentality executives, Hispanic national staff, the Regional Presidents of the UCC Council for Hispanic Ministries (CHM), and one representative each from COREM, the Coalition for LGBT Concerns, and the Council of Conference Ministers. At the time of the 2000 Restructure, executives of the Covenanted Ministries did not all participate; rather, one member of the Collegium of Officers participated regularly. The HMIT was charged with developing and implementing a Plan of Action and report its progress and request continuation at each subsequent General Synod.

It was VOTED

09-06-EC-07

(1 abstention) to adopt to grant voice without vote to the following resource persons to General Synod.

Mal Bertram	Parliamentarian
Doug Borko	OCWM Presentation
Kelly Burd	Youth Presentation
Tom Chu	Youth Presentation
Felix Carrion	TSI Presentation
Bentley de Bardelaben	OCWM Presentation
Robert Frieberg	Parliamentarian
Betty Hall	Budget Report
George Heartwell	Mayor of Grand Rapids
Jane Heckles	OCWM Presentation
Kathy Houston	Budget Report
Ann Kiernozek	Budget Report
Peter Makari	Overseas Guest Presentation
Susan Sanders	OCWM Presentation
Dave Schoen	New Church Recognition Presentation
Carol Shipley	Nominating Committee Report
Henry Simmons	Introduction of Geoffrey Black
Dick Sparrow	Speak Out Coordinator
Lydia Veliko	Ecumenical Guest Presentation

It was VOTED

09-06-EC-08

to appoint the following Tellers to the General Synod.

R. Samuel Askew	Kansas-Oklahoma Conference
Beatrice Barrow	Southern Conference
Beth Ann Benson	Wisconsin Conference
Wesley Bixby	Wisconsin Conference
Patricia Dunn	Southwest Conference
Ian Tosh	Massachusetts Conference

Joelle Kaupu
John Kidwell
A.J. Lacefield
Carol Merriman
Jonathan Page
Sandra Pontoh
Bela Poznan
Mulik Redding
Jeremy Rich
Vanessa Robbs
Amy Roon
Charlayne Thompkins
Lisa Young
Valerie Ziegler

Hawaii Conference
Connecticut Conference
Ohio Conference
Wisconsin Conference
Massachusetts Conference
New Hampshire Conference
Calvin Synod
Michigan Conference
Southeast Conference
Southeast Conference
Pacific Northwest Conference
Florida Conference
Penn Central Conference
Indiana-Kentucky Conference

It was VOTED
09-06-EC-09

to remove of Lydia de los Rios from the Credentials Committee.

It was VOTED
09-06-EC-10

to appoint James David to the Credentials committee.

It was VOTED
09-06-EC-11

(6 abstentions) that the chair request the Organizational Life committee review what it means to be a business committee during General Synod and provide for the appropriate orientation so that members of the Executive Council might be better prepared to respond to requests of the business committee.

It was VOTED
09-06-EC-14

to adopt the Report of the Committee of Reference

The Committee of Reference recommends:

The Executive Council receives items of business submitted to the Twenty-Seventh General Synod after January 1 and no later than June 5, 2009, and recommends referral as follows:

20. **Single Governance Structure for the National Setting of the United Church of Christ.** *Prudential Resolution.* The Executive Council recommends referral of the resolution, "Single Governance Structure for the National Setting of the United Church of Christ," submitted by the Penn Central Conference and the Rocky Mountain Conference, to a committee of the General Synod.
21. **Single Governance Structure for the National Setting of the United Church of Christ.** *Prudential Resolution.* The Executive Council recommends referral of the

- resolution, “Single Governance Structure for the National Setting of the United Church of Christ,” submitted by the Michigan Conference, to a committee of the General Synod.
22. **Good Governance for the United Church of Christ.** *Prudential Resolution.* The Executive Council recommends referral of the resolution, “Good Governance for the United Church of Christ,” submitted by the Connecticut Conference, to a committee of the General Synod.
 23. **Single Governance Structure for the National Setting of the United Church of Christ.** *Prudential Resolution.* The Executive Council recommends referral of the resolution, “Single Governance Structure for the United Church of Christ,” submitted by the Catoctin Association of the Central Atlantic Conference, to a committee of the General Synod.
 24. **On Governance of the National Setting of the United Church of Christ.** *Prudential Resolution.* The Executive Council recommends referral of the resolution, “On Governance of the National Setting of the United Church of Christ,” submitted by the Potomac Association of the Central Atlantic Conference, to a committee of the General Synod.
 25. **Good Governance for the United Church of Christ.** *Prudential Resolution.* The Executive Council recommends referral of the resolution, “Good Governance for the United Church of Christ,” submitted by the Iowa Conference, to a committee of the General Synod.
 26. **On Governance of the National Setting of the United Church of Christ.** *Prudential Resolution.* The Executive Council recommends referral of the resolution, “On Governance of the National Setting of the United Church of Christ,” submitted by United Black Christians, to a committee of the General Synod.
 27. **In Support of Dialogue on a Single Governance Structure for the National Setting of the United Church of Christ.** *Prudential Resolution.* The Executive Council recommends referral of the resolution, “In Support of Dialogue on a Single Governance Structure for the National Setting of the United Church of Christ,” submitted by 10 delegates to the 27th General Synod, to a committee of the General Synod.
 28. **Unifying Governance of the United Church of Christ.** *Prudential Resolution.* The Executive Council recommends referral of the resolution, “Unifying Governance of the United Church of Christ,” submitted by the Maine Conference, to a committee of the General Synod.
 29. **Affirming Diversity/Multi-Cultural Education in the Public Schools.** *Prudential Resolution.* The Executive Council recommends referral of the resolution, “Affirming Diversity/Multi-Cultural Education in the Public Schools,” submitted by the Northern California Nevada Conference, to a committee of the General Synod.

It was VOTED

09-06-EC-15

to elect members to the UC Foundation Board of Directions in the class of 2015:

Ms. Barbara Everett
Ms. Sylvia G. Ferrell-Jones
Ms. Gwendolyn V. Kirkland
Mr. Harold Shultz

It was VOTED
09-06-EC-16

to receive the report of the Israel-Palestine Consultation of June, 2009.

It was VOTED
09-06-EC-17

to elect Pierson Kemp as chairperson and Doug McClelland as vice chairperson of the Executive Council for the next biennium.

It was VOTED
09-06-EC-20

Defeated – (1 abstention) to request the Executive Council to look into how funds are expended from the National setting of church, to resource General Synod Resolutions, and to devise guidelines that are appropriate in contributing to an open, fair, and equally democratic process that affords equal footing to all resolutions submitted to General Synod.

APPENDIX C: STANDING RULES

STANDING RULES OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH GENERAL SYNOD INCLUDING THE RULES GOVERNING EXHIBITORS

As approved by the Executive Council April 14, 2008

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 thirty (30) voting members of each of the Boards of Directors of Justice and Witness Ministries, Local Church Ministries and Wider Church Ministries, the Office of General 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 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 resolve within fourteen (14) days of receipt of the challenge 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. Executive Council members representing the Covenanted Ministries shall attend General Synod as part of the Executive Council, but will be seated with the Covenanted Ministry Board that they represent.

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-seventh General Synod must be sent electronically* to the Office of General Ministries of the United Church of Christ **on or before February 15, 2009**. 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). All Formal Motions must be sent electronically* to the Office of General Ministries. The Committee of Reference 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, non-controversial, 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 proposed business item which reiterates or reaffirms previous action shall normally be referred by the General Synod to the body or bodies implementing such action. A referral for implementation is, in itself, a statement that the General

Synod is already on record with the intent of the business item and that the policy base for implementation is already in existence. 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; and
 - (f) the Executive Council.
- (3) Procedures for Considering Proposed Pronouncements are:
 - (a) A Copy of the Proposed Pronouncement must be sent electronically* to the Office of General Ministries **on or before October 26, 2008**.
 - (b) The Office of General Ministries will send the Proposed Pronouncement to the Local Churches, Associations, Conferences, and delegates **on or before December 26, 2008**. 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 electronically* 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; and
 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; and
 - (f) the Executive Council.
- (3) Procedures for Considering Proposals for Action are:
- (a) A copy of the Proposal for Action must be sent electronically* to the Office of General Ministries **on or before October 26, 2008**.
 - (b) The Office of General Ministries will send the Proposal for Action to the Local Churches, Associations, Conferences, proposed implementor(s), and delegates **on or before December 26, 2008**. 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.
 - (e) The proposed implementor(s) 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.
 - (f) 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.
 - (g) If adopted, the Proposal for Action shall be communicated throughout the United

Church of Christ, to the public and to those named as implementor(s).

- (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.

- (2) 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; and
 - (f) the Executive Council.
- (3) 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 **on or before January 1, 2009**. The Office of General Ministries shall make copies available to delegates **on or before April 1, 2009**.
 2. A Resolution or Other Formal Motions which could not have been anticipated or submitted in conformance with the above deadline must be sent electronically* to the Office of General Ministries **on or before June 5, 2009**.
 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 sent electronically* to the Office of General Ministries 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 1200 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. The Resolution or Other Formal Motion must also be provided on a portable electronic device.
 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 1200 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. The Resolution or Other Formal Motion must also be provided on a portable electronic device.

- (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. A referral for implementation is in itself a statement that the General Synod is already on record with the intent of the business item and that the policy base for implementation is already in existence. 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.
 - (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 shall include the following information:
- (a) A brief title with information providing the source of the Resolution or Other Formal Motion, the date of submission and any other information pertinent to the Resolution or Other Formal Motion. The title must accurately reflect the intent of the proposed motion. If presented at General Synod, the names and conferences of the delegates presenting the Resolution or Other Formal Motion shall be included.
 - (b) A brief summary that accurately reflects the content of the Resolution or Formal Motion.
 - (c) The biblical, theological and ethical rationale; and the expected outcome.

- (d) The text of the motion.
- (e) A statement that the funding for the implementation of the Resolution or Other Formal Motion will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available. There is no financial guarantee of any kind other than the annual budget determined by the Executive Council (73 GS 81).
- (f) A statement that the implementing body is responsible for developing the strategy and program designed to implement the Resolution or Other Formal Motion.

13. No more than three Proposed Pronouncements, Proposals for Action, Reports with Recommendations, Resolutions, and Overtures may be admitted to the agenda from any single source.

14. Reports to be made to succeeding General Synods on a Pronouncement, Proposal for Action, Resolution or Other Formal Motion may be requested for no more than the three General Synods immediately following that General Synod.

Reports to the General Synod

15. Reports to the General Synod with no action required shall be placed on file. Reports required by previous General Synod action and Reports from Councils must be sent electronically* to the Office of General Ministries **on or before April 1, 2009**. All reports made within the context of the meeting shall be contained in the official minutes of the meeting.

Conduct of the Business of the General Synod

16. A quorum for the conduct of business at General Synod shall consist of one-third of the voting delegates, provided that in this number at least two-thirds of the Conferences are represented by at least one delegate each (United Church of Christ Constitution, paragraph 53).

17. All proceedings of the General Synod shall, unless otherwise provided for, be governed by the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order (United Church of Christ Bylaw 182).

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.
22. 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 must, 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 24.B, above.
 - D. An adopted minority resolution 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:

Bio.	Floor	Nominating Info.	No.of Noms.	Seconding
(Max.Words)	Allowed	(Max.Min)	Allowed	(Max.Min)
50	Yes	5	2	2
50	Yes	3	No	No
Moderators	(only when contested)			
Executive				
50	No	No	No	No
Covenanted				
15	No	No	No	No
Nominating				
50	Yes	No	No	No

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 expeditors (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 27 in consultation with the host Conference will determine the number of offerings to be received at General Synod 27 and **shall announce the offering(s) at the spring 2009 meeting of the 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) **by June 26, 2008.**

Exhibits and Space use at General Synod

51. First priority for space and scheduling needs will be given to the General Synod and those activities that are supportive of its agenda, administration, and business.
52. Exhibits, displays and scheduling of space and time for optional and informal events shall be limited to persons representing the Covenanted, Affiliated and Associated Ministries and Other Bodies as defined by Article VI. of the Bylaws of the UCC, Conferences and Associations, Local Churches, General Synod Recognized Groups and bodies that are listed in the Yearbook of the UCC. If they are not among the officially recognized bodies, any group or individual wishing to have an exhibit or reserve space in the facilities managed by the Office of General Ministries may request such space.
53. Optional activities that are sponsored by officially recognized bodies, but not integral to program, administration and agenda of the General Synod shall be scheduled so as not to conflict with the General Synod.
54. Exhibits and space will be allocated on a first come, first served basis within the above criteria.
55. Exhibit space will be set aside for the Covenanted Ministries and other national bodies, so desiring, to have a common space that might be decorated with a common theme.
56. The following guidelines for General Synod commercial exhibits:
 - A. The product or service that they sell or offer is of value to local churches of the UCC.
 - B. The companies are able to offer references from UCC bodies that have used their services and indicate that they are reputable firms who stand behind their products and services. The exhibits coordinator and/or a committee should screen applications and check references and the give official agreement to the exhibitor.
57. The exhibit fee will be agreed upon for the UCC exhibitors and commercial exhibitors by the exhibits coordinator in consultation with the General Synod Administrator and the facilities coordinator after the actual costs have been assessed for the use of the exhibit hall, decorating expenses and labor. The fee for commercial exhibits will be higher than that for UCC exhibitors.
58. Free time will be reserved for delegates and visitors to visit the exhibit hall.

59. There will be a printed directory of exhibits with a description of each. This will include a map of the exhibit hall.

60. Hours when the exhibits will be open before and during the General Synod will be printed in the advance materials and the program book.

61. Exhibits shall open on the first day of General Synod at 10:00 am so those delegates who wish to visit them can do so before and after registration.

* Electronic mailings to <synod@ucc.org>

APPENDIX D: EXECUTIVE COUNCIL REPORT

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL REPORT ADMINISTRATION, POLICY AND ECUMENICAL ISSUES

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

AMENDMENT TO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE FOR CONSIDERATION

**It was VOTED
08-04-EC-11**

to adopt the amendment and present it to the Committee of the Whole for consideration.

Amend the report on page 25, creating a third bullet point to read:

In order to assure wide representation of the various unique voices of the United Church of Christ, we ask the Collegium to design a series of ministry convocations: a local church convocation, a justice and witness convocation and a global ministries convocation to be held annually, taking into account regional difficulties in the first four years of the new structure to allow for sharing of best practices, networking, community-building and the upbuilding of connections across the settings of the United Church of Christ. These convocations should be self-supporting through fees and grant funding and open to ecumenical participation with financial support available to ensure participation for those unable to afford to attend. The Covenanted Ministry Groups of the United Church Board would be expected to participate in their particular areas. Listening for the diverse voices of the wider Church as they make decisions about how to prioritize mandates.

ADOPT AMENDED GOVERNANCE FOLLOW-UP TEAM REPORT

**It was VOTED
08-04-EC-13**

to adopt the Amended Governance Follow-up Team Report as received from the Committee of the Whole (April 12, 2008), with the notice to the joint meeting of the Covenanted Ministries Board of Directors that the Executive Council would consider the

defeated amendment (08-04-EC-12) during its immediately upcoming meeting, April 13-14, 2008.

REVISION OF CURRENT TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT POLICY

**It was VOTED
07-10-EC-14**

To allow National staff to review, and if necessary reject, air travel reimbursement expenses from board members for travel *made less than 2 weeks in advance of the meeting date*. National staff is further allowed to negotiate reasonable expense reimbursement in situations where an exception to this policy is deemed appropriate.

JOHN THOMAS, JIM MOOS AND JOHN HUMPHREY TO WORK WITH NATIONAL SPECIAL COUNCIL REGARDING REQUEST FROM SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

**It was VOTED
08-04-EC-15**

to adopt the recommended action that the Executive Council designate John Thomas, Jim Moos and John Humphrey to work with National Special Council, Don Clark, to determine how to respond to the request from the Southeast Conference to participate in litigation regarding Center Church in Atlanta, Georgia. The group will have authority on behalf of the United Church of Christ to make all decisions regarding the litigation, including whether to participate as a party and settle the case. The group will report to the Executive Council at its fall 2008 meeting.

COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

**It was VOTED
08-04-EC-16**

to receive The Comprehensive Development Plan.

PENSION BOARDS TO PAY SUPPLEMENTATION OF SMALL ANNUITIES

**It was VOTED
08-04-EC-17**

to adopt the recommended action to authorize The Pension Boards-United Church of Christ, Inc. to pay supplementation of small annuities, effective January 1, 2008, based on an income level of \$23,100 with three-fourths of that amount as the level applicable in determining supplementation for a deceased member's surviving spouse.

SMALL ANNUITIES SUPPLEMENTED INCOME LEVEL

**It was VOTED
08-10-EC-16**

to receive and accept an increase in the Small Annuities Supplemented Income Level to \$24,000; representing an increase of 3.9% from the 2008 level of \$23,100.

HOUSING ALLOWANCE

**It was VOTED
08-10-EC-17**

to accept the traditional statement of housing allowance, not for the EC board, as they have no employees, but covers acceptance for other ministries if not otherwise covered.

ASSISTANT TREASURERS OF THE CORPORATION

**It was VOTED
08-10-EC-18**

to elect Ann Kiernozeck as Treasurer and Kathy Houston as Assistant Treasurers of the Corporation, the Executive Council of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ.

CENTER CHURCH LITIGATION GROUP

**It was VOTED
08-10-EC-29**

to receive the report of the Center Church Litigation Group (see appendix A).

KATHY HOUSTON, TREASURER; ANN KIERNOSZEK AND BETTY HALL, ASSISTANT TREASURERS

**It was voted
09-03-EC-14**

to adopt the recommendation: To elect Kathy Houston as Treasurer and Ann Kiernozeck and Betty Hall as Assistant Treasurers of the Corporation, the Executive Council of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO ACQUIRE AN OPINION OF COUNSEL LETTER

**It was voted
09-03-EC-17**

(1 no, 2 abstentions) to adopt the recommendation: The Budget and Finance Committee recommends that the Executive Council acquire an Opinion of Counsel letter as to whether Executive Council is in compliance with Bylaw Section 229, and if not, to provide possible alternative solutions to bring us into compliance.

BUDGET AND FINANCE

REPAYMENT OF TSI DEBT

**It was VOTED
07-10-EC-11**

To allow for overage of OCWM above the 2007 budgeted amount of \$9.0 M to be applied to the first payment to reduce \$3.5M TSI debt. Authorize Executive Council to execute internal loan documentation to allow a 10 year amortization at the internal borrowing interest rate and authorize CFO to liquidate investments monthly to make payments on the debt with an initial payment date of January 1, 2008. A review of the repayment policy will be made on an annual basis.

GENERAL SYNOD FUNDING

**It was VOTED
07-10-EC-12**

To revise the 2007 Executive Council budget to allow for an additional \$200k off the top from 2007 OCWM to pay for the expenses of General Synod. The cost will be shared by each ministry in the same proportion as the original 2007 OCWM percentage sharing. The originally budgeted OCWM amounts will be reduced as follows: OGM (\$45,100), JWM (\$34,700), LCM (\$58,800), WCM (\$47,300) and PB (\$14,100).

2008 NATIONAL BASIC SUPPORT ANNUAL ALLOCATIONS BUDGET

**It was VOTED
07-10-EC-13**

To accept the 2008 National Basic Support Annual Allocations Budget with the National Basic Support Allocation Base of \$9.3 million. The budget reflects an increase for General Synod from \$100K to \$200K annually and allows for funding of \$400K off the top for TSI from OCWM to OGM. The resulting funding for each ministry is EC \$814,030 (8.75%), OGM \$2,392,506 (25.73%), JWM \$1,427,056 (15.34%), LCM \$2,387,835 (25.68%) WCM \$1,691,592 (18.19%) PB \$586,981 (6.31%).

2008 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL BUDGET

**It was VOTED
07-10-EC-23**

(1 Abstention) To recommend that the Executive Council approve the 2008 Executive Council budget of \$814,030.

GRANTS TO RACIAL ETHNIC GROUPS

It was VOTED
07-10-EC-26

That the chair of EC be asked to appoint a task force (small task force) to meet with the Chair of UBC, the Chair of MRSEJ, and the Co-chairs of COREM and other COREM bodies regarding the grants to racial ethnic groups and to bring back to the April meeting of the Executive Council a recommendation regarding how to move forward with equity.

TSI ACCUMULATED DEBT

It was VOTED
08-04-EC-18

to adopt the recommended action to amend EC-07-10-B&F-01 (07-10-EC-11) (Motion regarding the \$3.5 Million TSI accumulated debt) to allow for overage of OCWM above 2007 budgeted amount of \$9.0 M to be applied to the first payment to reduced \$3.5 M TSI debt. Authorize Executive Council to execute internal loan documentation to allow a 10 year amortization at the internal borrowing interest rate and authorize CFO to liquidate investments quarterly to make payments on the debt with an initial payment date of January 1, 2008. A review of the repayment policy will be made on an annual basis.

TSI Debt as of August 31, 2007:	
	\$3,443,147
Excess 2007 OCWM	\$0,633,177
	<hr/>
Debt to be Amortized as of 1/1/08	\$2,809,970

On behalf of the Budget & Finance Committee Mr. Holland moved; the election of Ms. Kathy Houston and Ms. Ann Kiernozeck as Co-Treasurers of the Corporation the Executive Council of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ, for a period through December 31, 2008.

NATIONAL BASIC SUPPORT ALLOCATION

It was VOTED
08-10-EC-13

to accept the National Basic Support Allocation Base of \$9.0 million. The budget reflects an increase for General Synod from \$200k to \$260k annually and allows for funding of \$400k off the top for TSI from OCWM to OGM. The resulting funding for each ministry is EC \$926,300 (10.29%), OGM \$2,299,539 (25.55%), JWM \$1,355,527 (15.06%), LCM \$2,266,628 (25.18%), WCM \$1,594,090 (17.71%), PB \$557,916 (6.20%).

2009 ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET

**It was VOTED
08-10-EC-14**

to accept the 2009 Executive Council Administrative Budget (on file under separate cover in the Office of the Chief Financial Officer) totaling \$926,300. The budget reflects an increase for general board and Synod meeting expenses and expenses related to the GMP search and replacement.

2009 GENERAL SYNOD BUDGET

**It was VOTED
08-10-EC-15**

to accept the budget of \$1,192,500 for the 2009 General Synod and to increase the registration fees as follows:

Adults

Full Registration (full five days): \$175 for delegates, associate delegates, all staff, and visitors

Partial Registration (Friday, Saturday, Sunday): \$125 for visitors only.

Youth

\$115 for youth ages 18 and under.

Local Registration Fee

\$75 for local area volunteers as designated by Conference staff and planners.

Per Diem

For the Twenty Seventh General Synod per diem will be \$39.00 per day. This rate was obtained from the U.S. General Services Administration.

The cost of the General Synod is supported in large part by the registration fees. Therefore, all participants must register for Synod, thereby sharing in the support of this event in the life of the Church.

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**It was VOTED
08-10-EC-19**

to receive combined audited financial statements as of December 31, 2007 and SAS 114 letter dated August 5, 2008 (on file under separate cover in the Office of the Chief Financial Officer) as presented in the EC plenary.

COREM GRANTS

**It was VOTED
08-10-EC-20**

to receive and accept the report from the special committee on COREM Grants. The committee recommends that the EC accept the report only regarding amounts and distribution of COREM grants. No decisions were made in regard to the needs stated in the report, but the Committee requested Jim Moos (EC Chair) move forward to establish a committee to review history and needs to be compiled and reported out at the 2009 Spring Joint Board meeting.

FUNDING AND EXPENSE REPORTS

**It was VOTED
08-10-EC-21**

to accept Funding and Expense reports showing an (EC) deficit of \$14k as of August 31, 2008.

TSI DEBT BALANCE

**It was VOTED
08-10-EC-22**

to accept reconciled figures regarding TSI debt balance as of December 31, 2007, which brings a new confirmed TSI debt balance of \$1,941,814 and to ratify action by financial staff to avoid liquidation of assets to pay down the debt as previously moved at the Spring Joint Boards in April 2008.

TSI DEBT

**It was VOTED
08-10-EC-23**

to suspend recommendation previously made by EC regarding liquidation of investments to pay down the TSI debt. Confirmation needed to carry debt forward. Reconsideration to be given at the 2009 Joint Spring Board meeting to allow time for economic settlement and review of market stability.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL INVESTMENT ACCOUNT AS IT RELATES TO THE PAYDOWN OF TSI DEBT

**It was voted
09-03-EC-15**

to adopt the recommendation: The Budget and Finance Committee recommends that the Executive Council continue to hold the Executive Council investment account at the United Church Foundation subject to market conditions as it relates to the paydown of TSI debt.

REVISED NATIONAL BASIC SUPPORT ALLOCATION

**It was voted
09-03-EC-16**

to adopt the recommendation: The Budget and Finance Committee recommends the Executive Council approve the revised National Basic Support Allocation base of \$8.5 million for 2009. The resulting funding for each ministry is EC \$926,300 (10.90%), OCM \$2,186,789 (25.73%), JWM \$1,268,777 (14.93%), LCM \$2,119,628 (24.93%), WCM \$1,475,840 (17.36%), PB \$522,666 (6.15%)

ADOPT AND RECOMMEND NATIONAL BASIC SUPPORT ALLOCATIONS TO GENERAL SYNOD FOR ADOPTION

**It was voted
09-03-EC-18**

to adopt the recommendation: The Budget and Finance Committee recommends that the Executive Council adopt and recommend to General Synod for adoption: 1) A National Basic Support allocation based on \$8.5 million for the budget years 2010 and 2011; and 2) that the percentage allocations be based on the recommendation of the Executive Council.

DEVELOPMENT

SPECIAL MISSION OFFERINGS

**It was VOTED
07-10-EC-21**

The Executive Council requests that the Council of Conference Ministers review and clarify among the Council members the policy and practice of retention of monies from special missions offerings and asks Conference Ministers to report to the Special Mission Offerings Committee on the use of monies retained from these offerings.

REPORT AND RECOMMENDED ACTION FROM THE ORGANIZATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE ON THE COUNCIL OF CONFERENCE MINISTERS' PROPOSAL

**It was VOTED
07-10-EC-10**

To adopt the recommendation as amended, which now reads: The Executive Council recommends that the Collegium of Officers work with the Council of Conference Ministers and Local Church Ministries, in consultation with other covenanted and affiliated ministries, to facilitate the development of a plan for church-wide OCWM fundraising strategies and submission of a progress report to the Executive Council for its meeting in April, 2008.

DONOR BILL OF RIGHTS

It was VOTED
08-10-EC-28

to affirm the Donor Bill of Rights as the benchmark for donor relations for fundraising programs of the United Church of Christ;

EVALUATION & PLANNING

RESOLUTION OF TRIBUTE AND THANKS TO THE REV. ROBERT WITHAM

It was VOTED
07-10-EC-27

The Executive Council adopts the following resolution of tribute and thanks to the Rev. Robert Witham.

A Resolution of Tribute and Thanks to the Rev. Robert Witham

Whereas, the Rev. Robert Witham was ordained in 1962 and served local churches of the United Church of Christ before being called to serve in Conference Ministry in Massachusetts and New Hampshire;

And whereas, during the late 1990's the Rev. Robert Witham served as Chief of Staff to the United Church of Christ restructure process, moving to Cleveland to shepherd the process and then to serve as the first Assistant to the Collegium under the new structure;

And whereas, the Rev. Robert Witham spent his professional years in the service of the United Church of Christ and became a living asset regarding the history and polity of the Church and its many governing bodies and boards;

And whereas, his background was deemed essential to the planning of the Church's 50th Anniversary as a denomination, the Rev. Robert Witham was called out of retirement to serve as the Chair of the 50th Anniversary Planning Committee, serving faithfully and diligently in the capacity of Chair, as evidenced by the enormous success of the year-long celebration, which will culminate on All Saints Day 2007;

Therefore, be it resolved by the Executive Council of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ, acting in its capacity as General Synod Ad Interim, that the thanks and love of the United Church of Christ are hereby expressed to the Rev. Robert Witham for his years of service to the United

Church of Christ, especially for his wonderful work on the 50th Anniversary Committee and the resulting joy, sense of worth and renewed faith in God, it has brought to all levels and the general membership of the United Church of Christ.

Let it be further resolved that a copy of this resolution be communicated to the Rev. Robert Witham and his wife Carol, with an additional word of gratitude from the Executive Council for his tireless and pro bono efforts during the past three years, while Chairing the 50th Anniversary Committee.

CONSULTATION ON THE QUESTION OF THE PALESTINIAN-ISRAELI CONFLICT

**It was VOTED
07-10-EC-32**

That the Executive Council call for a Consultation to be held in 2008 or early 2009 on the question of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in cooperation with Wider Church Ministries; that the Executive Council requests the General Minister and President in consultation with the Executive Minister of the Wider Church Ministries and the Area Executive for the Middle East and Europe to convene a panel of United Church of Christ members representing diverse settings and constituencies of the Church; that the Executive Council requests that the panel engage in dialogue with traditional as well as new voices among ecumenical colleagues, regional partners, and interfaith colleagues representing diverse perspectives. Further, the Executive Council requests the General Minister and President to name a moderator for the panel, which will be staffed by the Area Executive for the Middle East and Europe and the ecumenical officer. The Executive Council requests that a report from this panel be sent to General Synod Twenty-Seven. Finally, recognizing that funding is not currently available for this consultation, the Executive Council requests that the General Minister and President seek funds for this Consultation.

COVENANT WITH CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

**It was VOTED
07-10-EC-34**

To adopt the recommendation "Covenant with Church World Service".

That the Executive Council affirm the Covenant with Church World Service, previously signed by Wider Church Ministries, and request that the General Minister and President and Executive Minister of Wider Church Ministries sign the document on behalf of the United Church of Christ.

COUNCIL FOR ECUMENISM AND INTERFAITH RELATIONS

It was VOTED

07-10-EC-41

That the Executive Council affirm that the Council for Ecumenism be renamed the “Council for Ecumenism and Interfaith Relations”;

That the Council for Ecumenism and Interfaith Relations meet at least annually in conjunction with the Executive Council;

That six (6) of the twelve total members of the Council for Ecumenism and Interfaith Relations shall be selected from among Executive Council members and up to six (6) members shall be selected based upon expertise as required;

That any proposed actions by the Council for Ecumenism and Interfaith Relations shall be reported to the Executive Council through the Evaluation, Policy and Planning (EP&P) Committee;

That a member of the Council for Ecumenism and Interfaith Relations shall serve on the EP&P Committee; and

That the United Church of Christ Bylaws changes needed to achieve the subject action be submitted to the next meeting of the General Synod.

SUPPORT OF TRINITY UCC

It was VOTED

08-04-EC-19

to adopt the resolution in Support of Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago, Illinois.

50th ANNIVERSARY STATE OF THE CHURCH NATIONAL SURVEY OF CONGREGATIONS

It was VOTED

08-04-EC-20

to adopt the recommended action to receive with thanks the 50th Anniversary State of the Church National Survey of Congregations; and release the survey with an extended background section to the Covenanted Ministries and Council of Conference Ministers for immediate use in planning and programming.

AMENDED EVALUATION, POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE DOCUMENT REGARDING THE CONTINUANCE OF A RECONSTITUTED GOVERNANCE FOLLOW-UP TEAM, AS ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2008.

**It was VOTED
08-04-EC-23**

to adopt the amended action as follows:

The Executive Council heard the actions of the four Covenanted Ministry Boards of Directors in response to the Proposal of the Committee of the Whole (April 12, 2008);

Notes the general, though qualified, support for a single governance model;

Reconstitutes the Governance Follow-up Team (GFT) with the request that the appropriated entities name representatives;

Charges the GFT to respond to the concerns raised in the document entitled “the Urgent Call” by continuing to broadly test the proposal throughout the diversity of the Church, consider the concerns raised about the size of the proposed United Church Board (UCB) in the GFT proposal as amended by the Committee of the Whole on April 13, 2008; explore the role, function and authority of an Executive Committee in the new UCB; and take seriously the additional questions and concerns that have been raised by the Covenanted Ministry Boards; and asks the GFT to bring, if possible, a new proposal to the meetings of the Boards and the Executive Council in the fall of 2008 for possible consideration and action.

The Executive Council will make available at least \$25,000.00 for gatherings of HUGS and other groups before the GFT begins its work, with the understanding that GFT members may emerge from the gatherings. The gatherings of the HUGS and other groups will be held before July 15, 2008

**RESCIND ACTION 06-04-EC-11, SELECTING HAWAII AS THE
SITE OF THE 2011 GENERAL SYNOD – CANCEL EXISTING
CONTRACTS**

**It was VOTED
08-09-EC-02**

With regrets, the Executive Committee of the Executive Council rescinds the Executive Council action of April 24, 2006 (06-04-EC-11) selecting Hawaii as the site of the 2011 General Synod and authorizes Edith Guffey to cancel existing contracts and authorizes staff to explore more economically feasible alternatives for the 2011 General Synod and present those alternatives at the spring 2009 meeting of the Executive Council.

RETENTION OF ATTORNEY – PETITION TO CALIFORNIA SUPREME COURT CONTESTING PROPOSITION 8

**It was VOTED
08-11-EC-01**

to authorize the retention of attorney Eric Isaacson, as well as his and associated law firms, to join the General Synod of the United Church of Christ in a petition to the California Supreme Court contesting the efficacy of the results of the recent vote on Proposition 8.

FLORIDA CONFERENCE TO HOST 2011 GENERAL SYNOD

**It was voted
09-03-EC-10**

to adopt the recommended action: The Executive Council thanks the Florida Conference for the invitation to serve as the Host Conference for the 2011 General Synod and designates July 1 – 5, 2011, as the date and Tampa, Florida, as the location of the Twenty-eighth General Synod.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, NEVADA CONFERENCE TO HOST 2013 GENERAL SYNOD

**It was voted
09-03-EC-11**

to adopt the recommended action: The Executive Council thanks the Southern California, Nevada Conference for the invitation to serve as the Host Conference for the 2013 General Synod and designates June 28 – July 2, 2013, as the date and Long Beach, California, as the location of the Twenty-ninth General Synod.

PLAN TO REDUCE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING COSTS

**It was voted
09-03-EC-12**

to adopt the recommended action: In recognition of the increasing economic hardship throughout the Church, the Executive Council shall create a plan at the 2009 Fall meeting to significantly reduce expenses related to its meetings. The Executive Council further encourages the Covenanted Ministry Boards to also develop plans at their Fall 2009 meetings to significantly reduce their meeting expenses.

SACRED CONVERSATION ON RACE

**It was voted
09-03-EC-13**

to adopt the recommendation: the Executive Council shall set aside time at the Fall 2009 meeting to conduct a Sacred Conversation on Race.

ORGANIZATIONAL LIFE ISSUES

ELECTION OF MS. GINI KING TO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

It was VOTED
07-10-EC-03

To elect Ms. Gini King to fill an Executive Council Vacancy in the Class of 2011 from the Maine Conference.

ELECTION OF MR. WILLKIAM EPKE TO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

It was VOTED
07-11-EC-04

To elect Mr. William Epke to a two-year term on the Executive Council representing the United Church Foundation.

ELECTION OF MS. RITA FIERO AND MS. LESLIE PENROSE TO JWM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

It was VOTED
07-10-EC-05

To elect both Ms. Rita Fiero to a term on the JWM Board of Directors Class of 2009 and to elect Ms. Leslie Penrose to a term on the JWM Board of Directors Class of 2009 (allowing them to then sit as JWM representatives to the Executive Council—ed's note).

ELECT AND RATIFY PERSONS TO LCM AND WCM BOARD POSITIONS

It was VOTED
07-10-EC-35

That the Executive Council elect and ratify Ms. Karen Curtis-Weakly, Mr. Harold Drury, Ms. Constance King, and Dr. Carol Stanley to the Local Church Ministries Board and Mr. Louie Bluecoat, Ms. Sally Hansen, Ms. Kim Magwire, and Rev. Leon White to the Wider Church Ministries Board.

ELECT PERSONS TO JWM BOARD POSITIONS

It was VOTED
07-10-EC-36

That the Executive Council elect Rev. Pamela June Anderson, Rev. Charles Barnes, Ms. Sarah Bigney, Mr. Wallace Cannon, Rev. Martha Cruz, Rev. Deborah Davis, Mr. Gary Dickens, Ms. Rita Fiero, Rev. John Gantt, Ms. Susan Hall, Ms. Laura Ilardo, Ms. Kristina Isabel, Ms. Carrie Miller, Mr. Wesley Oliver, Ms. Leslie Penrose, Ms. Sansiris Tamayo, Mr. Fredd Ward, Rev. Jane Willan, Ms. Carolyn Williamson, and Ms. Melissa Woo to the Justice and Witness Ministries Board.

NOMINEES TO UNITED CHURCH FOUNDATION

It was VOTED
07-10-EC-37

That the Executive Council approve these nominees to the corporate membership of the United Church Foundation: William Epke, Caucasian layperson from NY; Steve Gray, Caucasian clergyperson from IN; Steve Guy, Caucasian layperson from PA; and Serilda (Pete) Thompson, Caucasian female from KS.

NOMINEES TO PENSION BOARDS

It was VOTED
07-10-EC-38

That the Executive Council approve to the Pension Boards nominee pool Marguerite Boslaugh, Caucasian layperson from CT; Robert Medvey, Caucasian layperson from CT; and Leslie Schenk, Caucasian clergyperson from MO.

DISTRIBUTION OF CONFERENCE DELEGATES TO TWENTY-SEVENTH GENERAL SYNOD

It was VOTED
07-10-EC-39

That the Executive Council adopt the proposed distribution of conference delegates to the Twenty-seventh General Synod, totaling 676 delegates.

<u>Conference</u>	<u>Members</u>			<u>Delegates</u>	
California-N/Nevada	017,107	÷	1,773 =	09.64	10
California-S/Nevada	019,290	÷	1,773 =	10.87	11
Calvin Synod	002,360	÷	1,773 =	01.33	03
Central Atlantic	033,195	÷	1,773 =	18.72	19
Central Pacific	007,678	÷	1,773 =	04.33	04
Connecticut	089,947	÷	1,773 =	50.73	51
Florida	028,591	÷	1,773 =	16.12	16
Hawaii	017,760	÷	1,773 =	10.01	10
Illinois	089,054	÷	1,733 =	50.22	50
Illinois-South	026,497	÷	1,773 =	14.94	15
Indiana-Kentucky	034,983	÷	1,773 =	19.73	20
Iowa	034,884	÷	1,773 =	19.67	20
Kansa-Oklahoma	011,718	÷	1,773 =	06.69	07
Maine	022,352	÷	1,773 =	12.60	13
Massachusetts	083,600	÷	1,773 =	47.15	47
Michigan	038,504	÷	1,773 =	21.71	22
Minnesota	032,007	÷	1,773 =	18.05	18
Missouri-Mid-South	038,209	÷	1,773 =	21.55	22
Montana-No. Wyo.	004,975	÷	1,773 =	02.80	03
Nebraska	017,127	÷	1,773 =	09.65	10

New Hampshire	025,551	÷	1,773	=	14.41	14
New York	041,987	÷	1,773	=	23.68	24
Northern Plains	005,178	÷	1,773	=	02.92	03
Ohio	108,203	÷	1,773	=	61.02	61
Pacific Northwest	010,129	÷	1,773	=	05.71	06
Penn Central	052,877	÷	1,773	=	29.82	30
Penn Northeast	044,447	÷	1,773	=	25.06	25
Pennsylvania SE	055,440	÷	1,773	=	31.26	31
Penn West	016,348	÷	1,773	=	09.22	09
Rhode Island	007,288	÷	1,773	=	04.11	04
Rocky Mountain	015,541	÷	1,773	=	08.76	09
South Central	016,526	÷	1,773	=	09.32	09
South Dakota	011,770	÷	1,773	=	06.63	07
Southeast	010,995	÷	1,773	=	06.20	06
Southern	035,298	÷	1,773	=	19.90	20
Southwest	010,125	÷	1,773	=	05.71	06
Vermont	014,825	÷	1,773	=	08.36	08
Wisconsin	058,316	÷	1,773	=	32.89	<u>33</u>
						676

ORGANIZATION LIFE SUB-COMMITTEE FOR GENERAL SYNOD STANDING RULES

**It was VOTED
07-10-EC-40**

That the Organization Life Committee appoint a sub-committee to recommend possible amendments to the General Synod Standing Rules, as they related to pronouncements, plans for action, resolutions, formal motions, and other issues, e.g. voice without vote; and present them to the April meeting of the Executive Council.

DIRECTION OF MODEL DEVELOPED BY GOVERNANCE FOLLOW-UP TEAM

**It was VOTED
07-10-EC-42**

OL Committee Recommendation # 9 That the Executive Council affirm the direction of the model developed by the Governance Follow-up Team, and commend it to the Boards of Directors of the Covenanted Ministries for their consideration, feedback and hope-for affirmation of the general concept proposed by the model and, if this affirmation is shared by all of the Boards of Directors of the Covenanted Ministries, that the Executive Council further request the Governance Follow-up Team to receive the feedback, discuss the feedback and concerns raised and make its final recommendations to the Joint Board meetings in April 2008 for action.

CHANGE TERM “EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE” TO “BOARD OF DIRECTORS”

**It was VOTED
07-10-EC-43**

To adopt the proposed amendment

A friendly amendment was offered and accepted to change the following usage of the term “Executive Committee” to “Board of Directors” to be consistent with the GFT vision.

That the executives of the Pension Boards, United Church Foundation and the Council for Health and Human Services Ministries have a position on the Board of Directors and, if not a member of a UCC church, then a member of the Board of Directors would fill the position;

CONSIDERATION TO THE CONCERNS REGARDING A SINGLE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

**It was VOTED
07-10-EC-47**

To adopt the Organizational Life Recommendation # 10 as amended which now reads as follows.

Recommended Action # 10 – That the Executive Council recommend to the Governance Follow-up Team that it give consideration to the concerns regarding a single governance structure from the following sources:

The document entitled, “Summary of Concerns and Issues on the Single Governance Structure;”

Concerns raised in the first plenary session of Executive Council on October 12, 2007;

Concerns raised in the fourth plenary session of Executive Council on October 13, 2007;

Submission by any Covenanted Ministries;

Submission by any Affiliated or Associated Ministry; and

Issues raised during the session of the Organization Life Committee of Executive Council on October 12-13, 2007, including:

That the responsibilities of the proposed “Executive Committee” be separated into strategic planning and coordinating functions, and that two separate committees be named and formed to perform these functions;

That the name of the new organization be changed from United Church Board of Directors to “the United Church of Christ Board of Directors;”

That the composition of the Board of Directors reflect adherence to the diversity model of Justice and Witness Ministries as set forth in the UCC Bylaws;

The Executive Council requests that the Governance Follow-up Team include Resource Development as a standing committee in the proposed governance structure.”

That the leadership role of the General Minister and President within the collegial team model be specified to include the authority to make a decision in the event of an impasse between

members, and that the General Minister and President have specifically defined administrative authority;

That the executives of the Pension Boards, United Church Foundation and the Council for Health and Human Services Ministries have a position on the Board of Directors and, if not a member of a UCC church, then a member of the Board of Directors would fill the position;

That any individual named to a committee be given voice and vote; and

That all members of the Board of Directors serve no less than four (4) years nor more than six (6) years.

CONSIDERATION OF THE CANDIDATE FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OR LCM

**It was VOTED
07-10-EC-49**

That the Executive Council consider the, as yet un-announced, candidate for Executive Director of Local Church Ministries at its April 2008 meeting.

REMOVAL OF MS. ROSA SMITH-WILLIAMS

**It was VOTED
08-04-EC-03**

to remove Ms. Rosa Smith-Williams as a member of the Executive Council.

REMOVAL OF MS. MOLLY CLAUHS

**It was VOTED
08-04-EC-04**

to remove Ms. Molly Clauhs as a member of the Executive Council.

REMOVE OF MR. KEITH HALE

**It was VOTED
08-04-EC-05**

to remove Mr. Keith Hale as a member of the Executive Council.

ELECTION OF MR. CARLOS FLORESCA

**It was VOTED
08-04-EC-06**

to elect Mr. Carlos Floresca to the Executive Council.

ELECTION OF MR. DAVID ANDERSON

**It was VOTED
08-04-EC-07**

to elect Mr. David Anderson to the Executive Council.

ELECTION OF MS. SUSAN (SUE) SHADBURNE CALL

**It was VOTED
08-04-EC-08**

to elect Ms. Susan (Sue) Shadburne Call to the Executive Council.

ELECTION OF MS. ARLINDA WICKLAND

**It was VOTED
08-04-EC-09**

to elect Ms. Arlinda Wickland to the Executive Council.

ELECTION OF REV. DR. STEPHEN L. STERNER

**It was VOTED
08-04-EC-10**

to elect Rev. Dr. Stephen L. Sterner as an Acting Officer of the Church.

**AMENDED ORGANIZATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE
DOCUMENT REGARDING THE COMPOSITION OF THE
RECONSTITUTED GOVERNANCE FOLLOW-UP TEAM, AS
ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, MONDAY, APRIL
14, 2007**

**It was VOTED
08-04-EC-24**

to adopt the amended action as follows:

- a. Ask the Chairs and Vice-chairs of the Covenanted Ministries Boards to ascertain which members of the Governance Follow-up Team representing their respective Boards wish to continue and whom the Boards wish to continue;

- b. Ask the Executive Committee of each Board and the Executive Council to discuss possible replacement members from their Boards who may serve;
- c. Request that the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Boards and Executive Council meet by conference call with the Collegium to review the names and composition of the reconstituted Governance Follow-up Team as it is developing, and make additions to form a representative group that includes members of all Boards, Executive Council, the Pension Boards, United Church Foundation and the HUGS, which will decide upon and appoint to the Governance Follow-up Team through their own internal processes; and

GENERAL SYNOD STANDING RULES

**It was VOTED
08-04-EC-25**

to adopt the rewritten and revised General Synod Standing Rules for the Twenty-seventh General Synod.

ELECTION OF JOHN DECKENBACK, BRIAN LAPIS AND STEWART HOOVER TO THE OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS OF THE UCC, INC.

**It was VOTED
08-04-EC-26**

to adopt the recommended action to elect the Rev. John Deckenback, Mr. Brian Lapis and Mr. Stewart Hoover to the Office of Communication of the United Church of Christ, Inc. Board of Directors to terms ending on December 31, 2010, and Mr. Michael Bracy to a term ending on December 31, 2009.

ELECTION OF EDITH A. GUFFEY TO THE OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS OF THE UCC, INC.

**It was VOTED
08-04-EC-27**

to adopt the recommended action to approve the election of Edith A. Guffey, Associate General Minister, as the Collegium designee to the Board of Directors of the Office of Communication of the United Church of Christ, Inc., for a term ending with the conclusion of her current term as Associate General Minister (Class of 2011).

ELECTIONS TO THE PENSION BOARD'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES

It was VOTED
08-04-EC-28

to adopt the recommended action to approve the following persons eligible for election to the Pension Boards' Board of Trustees: Rev. Rodney Franklin of Birmingham, Alabama and Mr. John B. Kleiman of Glastonbury, Connecticut.

SPECIAL BALLOT

It was VOTED
08-04-EC-29

to receive the results of the special electronic ballot to fill vacancies on the various Covenanted Ministries Boards of Directors and the General Synod Nominating Committee.

BACKGROUND: the Office of the Minister for Governing Body Relations certifies the following individuals were elected by a majority vote of 49 YES, with no dissenting votes;

Mr. Vy Nguyen, Asian-American, ordained male, 25, as a representative of the Christian Church (Disciples) to the Justice and Witness Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2009.

Ms. Martha Mendoza, Latina, lay female, 40-49, as a representative of the Council for Hispanic Ministries to the Justice and Witness Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2013.

Mr. Zsolt Ötvös, European-American, ordained male, 30-39, as a representative of the Calvin Synod to the Justice and Witness Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2011.

Mr. Efrain Agosto, Hispanic, lay male, 50-59, as a representative at-large to the Justice and Witness Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2009.

Ms. Pamela Canzater Cheney, African-American, ordained female, 50-59, as a representative of the Ohio Conference to the Justice and Witness Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2013.

Ms. Sharon Key, European-American, ordained female, 50-59, as a representative of the Rhode Island Conference to the Local Church Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2011.

Ms. Nancy Lawrence, European-American, lay female, 50-59, as a representative of the Massachusetts Conference to the Local Church Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2009.

Mr. James Ewers, European-American, lay male, 17-25, as a representative at-large to the Office of General Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2009.

Ms. Ilona Komjathy, European-American, ordained female, 60+, as a representative of the Calvin Synod to the Office of General Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2013.

Ms. Lisa Meidinger, European-American, lay female, 19-29, as a representative of the Northern Plains Conference to the Office of General Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2013.

Mr. Jonathan Page, European-American, ordained male, 19-29, as a representative of the Massachusetts Conference to the Office of General Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2009.

Ms. Alyce Downer, European-American, lay female, 30-39, as a representative of the South Central Conference to the Wider Church Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2011.

Ms. Zora Ludwig, European-American, lay female, 60+, as a representative of the Calvin Synod to the Wider Church Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2013.

Ms. Kimberly McKerley, European-American, ordained female, 50-59, as a representative of the New Hampshire Conference on the Wider Church Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2011.

Ms. Angela Myers, African-American, lay female, 40-49, as a representative of the United Black Christians to the General Synod Nominating Committee in the Class of 2009.

COMMUNITY BUILDING AT MEETINGS

**It was VOTED
08-04-EC-30**

to approve the motion to provide for community building at all future Executive Council meetings.

GOVERNANCE FOLLOW-UP TEAM II

**It was VOTED
08-10-EC-10**

to approve.

(Members: Ms. Brown, Mr. Camp, Mr. Floresca, Mr. Hagler, Mr. Holland and Ms. West have asked that their No Vote on 08-10-EC-10 be specified in the record of the proceedings.)

Mr. Moos asked Mr. Holeman to restate the motion before the body: The Executive Council;

- 1) Affirms the Proposal of the Governance Follow-Up Team as a sufficient basis for the restructure of the national setting;
- 2) Reports the following recommendations, if any, supported by a majority vote, for possible modification of the Proposal; and
- 3) Authorizes its Chair and Vice-chair to meet with their counterparts to reconcile, if possible, any differences in the actions of all four Boards and the Executive Council as a basis for the preparation of proposed Constitution and Bylaw amendments for consideration at the 2009 Spring meetings, and;

**It was VOTED
08-10-EC-11**

to approve.

Mr. Holeman moved and it was seconded: The Executive Council authorizes the continuance of the Governance Follow-Up Team II through June, 2009 and asks it to

- 1) Prepare proposed Constitution and Bylaw amendments for consideration by the Boards and the Executive Council in March, 2009;
- 2) Communicate the proposed changes broadly throughout the Church; and
- 3) Facilitate Church-wide conversation about the proposed structural changes in order to prepare the Church for deliberation and decision at General Synod in June 2009, and;

**It was VOTED
08-10-EC-12**

to approve.

The Executive Council has directed that the following information be communicated to the Governance Follow-up Team II; the Executive Council requests that the Governance Follow-up Team II revisit the titles and means of selecting and replacing the positions now designated as Chief Administrative Officer and Chief Financial Officer. The Executive Council also requests the Governance Follow-up Team II consider concerns regarding corporate accountability in the merger of the Justice and Witness Ministries, Local Church Ministries and Wider Church Ministries into the United Church Board, with particular attention paid to the proposed process as outlined in lines 840-844 and 902-903.

(No formal action taken or approved regarding these requests raised during the course of the debate leading to the formal actions, above.)

**APPROVAL OF NOMINEES TO BOARDS OF DIRECTORS
AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

It was VOTED

08-10-EC-24

to approve the following nominees:

Ms. Carissa Cullumber, European-American, lay female, 17-29, as a representative of the Christian Church (DOC) to the Wider Church Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2009.

Ms. Loyce Newton-Edwards, African American, ordained female, 60+, as a representative of the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference to the Wider Church Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2013.

Ms. Kathryn Frazier, European-American, lay female, 19-29, as a representative of the Council on Youth and Young Adult Ministries to the Justice and Witness Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2009.

Ms. Christa Owens, African American, lay female, 50-59, as a representative of the Massachusetts Conference to the Justice and Witness Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2009.

Mr. Miguel Close-Rodriguez, Hispanic Latino, lay male, 17-26, as a representative of the California, Nevada Southern Conference to the Justice and Witness Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2011.

Ms. Fay Ann Moberg, Native American, female, as a representative of the Council for American Indian Ministry to the Office of General Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2011.

Ms. Monica Newburgh, European-American, lay female, 17-29, as a representative of the Penn Northeast Conference to the Local Church Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2011.

Ms. Sharyl Peterson, European-American, ordained female, 50-59, as a representative of the Rocky Mountain Conference to the Local Church Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2009.

Mr. David Spollett, European-American, ordained male, 50-59, as a representative of the Connecticut Conference to the Local Church Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2011.

Mr. George Weavill, Jr., European-American, lay male, 60+, as a representative of the Rhode Island Conference to the Local Church Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2011.

Ms. Anita Louise Poole, European-American, lay female, 40-49, as a representative of the Illinois South Conference to the Executive Council in the Class of 2011.

REVISIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL STANDING RULES

It was VOTED

08-10-EC-25

to approve revisions to the Executive Council Standing Rules (see appendix B).

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAW CHANGES – MODERATOR AND VICE-MODERATOR OF GENERAL SYNOD

It was VOTED

08-10-EC-26

to request the Governance Follow-up Team II propose constitution and bylaw changes to have the Moderator and Vice-moderator of General Synod serve two two-year terms. In the succeeding two years, the Vice-moderator shall move into the position of Moderator. The Nominating Committee shall honor the tradition and expectation of diversity in filling these positions.

UCC DELEGATION FOR THE WORLD ALLIANCE OF REFORMED CHURCHES GENERAL COUNCIL

It was VOTED

08-10-EC-27

to approve the following people as the United Church of Christ delegation for the World Alliance of Reformed Churches General Council to be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan, June 18-28, 2010:

Sheldon Culver (F, Euro-American)
Arelis Figueroa (F, young adult, Latina)
Edie Rasell (F, Euro-American)
Eleazar Fernandez (M, Pacific Islander/Asian American)
Kaji Spellman (F, young adult, African American)
Susan Davies (F, Euro-American)
Member from the Calvin Synod
Member from Wider Church Ministries
General Minister and President
Ecumenical Officer

REMOVAL OF BERNARD INGRAM

It was VOTED

09-03-EC-04

to remove Mr. Bernard Ingram from the Executive Council as a representative of the Southern Conference.

ELECTION OF DOUGLAS WOOTEN

It was VOTED

09-03-EC-05

to elect Mr. Douglas Wooten as a representative of the Southern Conference to the Executive Council.

AUTHORIZATION OF MR. MOOS TO SIGN RETAINER

It was voted

09-03-EC-07

to authorize Mr. Moos to sign the retainer for Special National Counsel, Mr. Don Clark, on behalf of the Executive Council.

THE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE

It was voted

09-03-EC-08

to adopt the report of the Committee of Reference (see following).

The Committee of Reference recommends:

1. **An Economic Justice Covenant.** *Resolution of Witness.* The Executive Council recommends referral of the resolution, “An Economic Justice Covenant,” submitted by the Southern Conference, to a committee of the General Synod.
2. **Sacred Conversations on Race.** *Prudential Resolution.* The Executive Council recommends referral of the resolution, “Sacred Conversations on Race,” submitted by the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference, to a committee of the General Synod.
3. **Options to War against Iran.** *Resolution of Witness.* The Executive Council recommends referral of the resolution, “Options to War against Iran,” submitted by the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference, to a committee of the General Synod.
4. **A Call for Study of Our Church’s Involvement in the Eugenics Movement.** *Prudential Resolution.* The Executive Council recommends referral of the resolution, “A Call for Study of Our Church’s Involvement in the Eugenics Movement,” submitted by the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference, to a committee of the General Synod.
5. **Affirming *The Accra Confession: Covenanting for Justice in the Economy and the Earth.*** *Resolution of Witness.* The Executive Council recommends referral of the resolution,

“Affirming *The Accra Confession: Covenanting for Justice in the Economy and the Earth*,” submitted by Justice and Witness Ministries, to a committee of the General Synod.

6. **On the Roles of Church and Government in Addressing Global Food Crisis.** *Resolution of Witness.* The Executive Council recommends referral of the resolution, “On the Roles of Church and Government in Addressing Global Food Crisis,” submitted by Justice and Witness Ministries and Wider Church Ministries, to a committee of the General Synod.
7. **Calling for Comprehensive HIV Prevention in Church and Community.** *Prudential Resolution.* The Executive Council recommends referral of the resolution, “Calling for Comprehensive HIV Prevention in Church and Community,” submitted by Wider Church Ministries, to a committee of the General Synod. Note: The submitter is asked to provide a briefer summary statement, which might be the words currently appearing in lines 133 through 137 of the submitted version of the resolution.
8. **A Call to be Global Mission Churches in the United Church of Christ.** *Prudential Resolution.* The Executive Council recommends referral of the resolution, “A Call to be Global Mission Churches in the United Church of Christ,” submitted by Wider Church Ministries, to a committee of the General Synod.
9. **On Responsible Meeting Practice.** *Prudential Resolution.* The Executive Council recommends referral of the resolution, “On Responsible Meeting Practice,” submitted by the Hawaii Conference, to a committee of the General Synod.
10. **Axis of Friendship with Iran.** *Resolution of Witness.* The Executive Council recommends referral of the resolution, “Axis of Friendship with Iran,” submitted by First Congregational Church of Berkeley, Berkeley, California, of the Northern California-Nevada Conference, by the New York Conference, and by six other Local Churches from the Southern California-Nevada, Connecticut, Missouri Mid-South, and New York conferences, to a committee of the General Synod. Note: The submitters are asked to provide a summary statement.
11. **Calling for the Support of H.R. 676 – Single Payer National Health Care Reform to Advance Health Equity for All and to Eliminate Health Disparities.** *Resolution of Witness.* The

Executive Council recommends referral of the resolution , “Calling for the Support of H.R. 676 – Single Payer National Health Care Reform to

Advance Health Equity for All and to Eliminate Health Disparities,” submitted by the Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries, to a committee of the General Synod.

12. **Calling on President Barack Obama to Revisit and Re-negotiate a More Humane, Democratic, and Ecologically Sound Version of the North American Free Trade Agreement.** *Resolution of Witness.* The Executive Council recommends referral of the resolution, “Calling on President Barack Obama to Revisit and Re-negotiate a More Humane, Democratic, and Ecologically Sound Version of the North American Free Trade Agreement,” submitted by the Rev. Carrie Bail of the Massachusetts Conference and 11 other General Synod delegates from the Massachusetts, Pennsylvania Southeast, and Florida conferences, to a committee of the General Synod.
13. **A Justice Town Hall Gathering.** *Prudential Resolution.* The Executive Council recommends referral of the resolution, “A Justice Town Hall Gathering,” submitted by Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries, to a committee of the General Synod.
14. **A Call to Awareness and Action to End the Practice of Trafficking in Persons.** *Resolution of Witness.* The Executive Council recommends referral of the resolution, “A Call to Awareness and Action to End the Practice of Trafficking in Persons,” submitted by Justice and Witness Ministries, to a committee of the General Synod.
15. **On the Situation of Iraqi Refugees and Internally Displaced.** *Resolution of Witness.* The Executive Council recommends referral of the resolution, “On the Situation of Iraqi Refugees and Internally Displaced,” submitted by the Central Atlantic and Southern conferences, directly to a plenary session of the General Synod, with the recommendation that it be approved.
16. **A Call to Reaffirm the Importance of Ecumenical Commitments and Initiatives in the United Church of Christ.** *Resolution of Witness.* The Executive Council recommends referral of the resolution, “A Call to Reaffirm the Importance of Ecumenical Commitments and Initiatives in the United Church of Christ,” submitted by Heidelberg United Church of Christ, York, Pennsylvania, of the Penn Central Conference, and six other Local Churches from the Massachusetts, Michigan, Penn Central, Pennsylvania Southeast, and Wisconsin conferences, directly to a plenary session of the General Synod, with the recommendation that it be approved.

17. **Earthwise Congregation: On Mediating Climate Change.** *Prudential Resolution.* The Executive Council recommends referral of the resolution, “Earthwise Congregation: On Mediating Climate Change,” submitted by the Minnesota Conference, to the implementing bodies named in “A Resolution on Climate Change” as voted by the Twenty-Sixth General Synod (07-GS-16).
18. **In Support of Physician Assistance in Dying.** *Resolution of Witness.* The Executive Council recommends referral of the resolution, “In Support of Physician Assistance in Dying,” submitted by the Central Atlantic Conference, to Justice and Witness Ministries, with the recommendation that it be considered in the study process established by the Twenty-Sixth General Synod in the resolution, “Legalization of Physician Aid in Dying” (07-GS-37).
19. **On the Urgency for Action on Climate Change.** *Resolution of Witness.* The Executive Council recommends referral of the resolution, “On the Urgency for Action on Climate Change,” submitted by the Connecticut Conference, to the implementing bodies named in “A Resolution on Climate Change” as voted by the Twenty-Sixth General Synod (07-GS-16). Note: The submitter is asked to provide a briefer summary statement.

GEOFFREY BLACK AS CANDIDATE FOR GENERAL MINISTER AND PRESIDENT

**It was voted
09-03-EC-09**

to confirm the Rev. Geoffrey Black as the candidate for General Minister and President to be presented to the Twenty-seventh General Synod for election.

SPECIAL ELECTRONIC BALLOT

**It was voted
09-03-EC-19**

to adopt the recommendation: to receive the results of the special electronic ballot, dated February 4, 2009, electing various individual to the Executive Council and Boards of Directors of the

Covenanted Ministries to fill vacancies on those bodies, this done in accordance with the Standing Rules of the Executive Council. Receipt of the results will be reported to the Executive Council as part of the committee report (see following).

Ms. Jane B. Anderson elected to the Executive Council in the Class of 2011, representing the Wisconsin Conference;

Ms. Marcia Charles elected to the Executive Council in the Class of 2011, representing the Maine Conference;

Mr. Alfred Schwerdt elected to the Executive Council in the Class of 2011, representing the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference;

Mr. MacArthur Flournoy elected to the Justice and Witness Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2011, representing the California, Nevada Northern Conference;

Ms. Nancy Erickson elected to the Local Church Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2013, representing the Nebraska Conference;

Mr. Armin Schmidt and Ms. Elizabeth Walker elected to the Office of General Ministries Board of Directors, Mr. Schmidt in the Class of 2013, representing the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference and Ms. Walker in the Class of 2011, representing the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference;

Mr. David Long-Higgins and Ms. Ruthann Redmon elected to the Wider Church Ministries Board of Directors, Mr. Higgins in the Class of 2009, representing the Ohio Conference and Ms. Redmon in the Class of 2013, representing the Illinois South Conference.

GENERAL SYNOD CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE, CLASS OF 2011

**It was voted
09-03-EC-20**

to adopt the recommendation: in accordance with Section 204 of the Constitution and Bylaws, the Executive Council appoints the listed delegates to the 27th and 28th General Synods to the General Synod Credentials Committee, Class of 2011 (see following).

Lydia de los Rios—Hispanic American, lay female, 50-59 from the California Nevada Southern Conference.

Christy Germann—European American, lay female, 19-29 from the Illinois South Conference.

Edward Smith-Davis—African American, ordained male, 50-59, from the Illinois Conference.

Sham Moteelall—Asian American, lay male, 50-59, from the Minnesota Conference.

Joshua Arend—European American, lay male, 19-29, from the Indiana-Kentucky Conference.

EDWIN MOREANO, CHAIR OF THE 27th GENERAL SYNOD CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

**It was voted
09-03-EC-21**

to adopt the recommendation: in accordance with Section 204 of the Constitution and Bylaws, the Executive Council appoints Mr. Edwin Moreano, Hispanic American, ordained male, 40-49, from the Iowa Conference as Chair of the 27th General Synod Credentials Committee.

SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION BY THE 27th GENERAL SYNOD TO THE GENERAL SYNOD NOMINATING COMMITTEE, CLASS OF 2015

**It was voted
09-03-EC-22**

to adopt the recommendation: in accordance with Section 197 paragraphs a and b of the Constitution and Bylaws, the approval of a slate of candidates for election by the 27th General Synod to the General Synod Nominating Committee, Class of 2015 (see following).

Recommended for Nomination from the Conferences:

Lay persons:

1—Christine Tubbs, Iowa Conference, age 60+, European American female, retired school teacher and member of United Church of Christ of Maquoketa in Maquoketa, Iowa. Ms. Tubbs has a strong identity with the UCC and has served as Moderator of her local church, served on various committees and as its newsletter editor. She has served on Conference and Eastern Association task forces and committees and has been particularly involved in the conference youth camp program. She volunteers at her local 4-H program, women's organizations, food pantry, nature center and at two elementary schools. Ms. Tubbs is a supporter of and volunteer to Back Bay Mission.

2—Ivy Tillman, Massachusetts Conference, age 50-59, African American female, Coordinator of Student Technology and member of First Congregational UCC in Amherst, Massachusetts. Ms. Tillman is a Deacon at her church. She is on the Western Massachusetts Association Open and Affirming Task Force and serves as an Open and Affirming consultant. She is an active participant in her Conference Annual Meeting in the Conference Amistad celebration. She is a former delegate to the General Synod. Ms. Tillman lists group process and church educator as interests and skills she can bring to the Nominating Committee.

3—James Turner, Indiana-Kentucky Conference, age 40-49, African American male, Information Systems Auditor and member of Trinity UCC in Gary, Indiana.

He serves as a Deacon of his church and sits on its Board of Trustees. Trinity is a new church start in the Kentucky-Indiana Conference. Ms. Turner is involved in a group called Men that Mean Business, which started a neighborhood watch program and helps staff the local food pantry. The group also works in conjunction with the local school system. He has also volunteered his time working with senior citizens in assisted living facilities. As a Deacon, Mr. Turner has expressed an interest in learning more about and serving the wider church.

4—Ralph France, Central Atlantic Conference, age 60+, European American male, District Court Judge and member of Zion UCC in Hagerstown in Maryland. Mr. France has been a consistory member for 20 years and has served as both its President and Vice-president. He has served on numerous church committees. He is a life-long member of the UCC. He previously served as President and Vice-president, for two years each, of the Central Atlantic Conference. Mr. France is a 43 year member of the Maryland Bar Association and the former President, Vice-president, Treasurer and 40 year member of the Washington County Bar Association.

5—Nancy Phipps, Kansas-Oklahoma Conference, age 50-59, European American female, Licensed Minister (lay status) of Faith UCC in Wichita, Kansas. Ms. Phipps has served at Faith for the past year. She has served as Chair or Vice-chair of every committee or board at the local church level over the past 30 years, with particular interest in those committees and boards serving the needs of women. She teaches Sunday school. She has served as her conference secretary and was honored by the General Synod as an Honored Lay Woman. Ms. Phipps volunteers at her neighborhood food bank and was a member of her hometown, Whitewater, Kansas, Centennial Steering Committee.

6—Christina Held, California Nevada Southern Conference, age 30-39, European American female, store manager and member of Community UCC in San Dimas, California. Ms. Held is Director of Children and Youth Ministries at Community UCC. She also serves on the church Mission Ministry and the Endowment Fund Committee. She coordinates the worship service when the pastor is absent. She is the Registrar of the Eastern Association and prior to that served on its Executive Committee. She is on the Conference Board of Directors and Chair of its Personnel Committee. She serves on the City of Claremont's Relay for Life Committee and recently helped organize a blood drive for the City of Hope.

Clergy:

1—Tim Marquez, South Central Conference, age 30-39, Asian American male, Office Manager of the South Central Conference and member of Evangelical UCC in Stafford, Texas. Prior to his appointment to the Conference staff, Mr. Marquez was the Pastor at Evangelical. He is a native of the Philippine Islands and is a licensed clinical psychologist in the Philippines, where he was active in community organizing and justice issues. His psychology training and

experiences in the Philippines have aided his work in Texas, on the Settegast Heights Low Income Housing Board and as a volunteer chaplain at Houston area hospitals and long term health facilities. He is active in PAAM. Mr. Marquez also serves on an ecumenical task force for mental health in the Houston area.

2—Dawn Shippe, New Hampshire Conference, age 50-59, European American female, is the pastor of North Church of Portsmouth UCC, in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. She is in her 10th year at North Church and has been in the Conference for the past 24 years, during which time she previously served on its Board of Trustees and has served as an officer in the Rockingham Association, as well. Ms. Shippe was the Conference representative to the Board of Homeland Ministries just prior to restructure in 2000. She convenes her local clergy association and sits on the board of directors of a Portsmouth children's home. After 10 years at North Church, Ms. Shippe says she is now in a position to again offer her services at the national setting. In nominating Ms. Shippe, her Conference Minister says she will bring group process and organizational skills to the Nominating Committee.

3—James Fauther, Rocky Mountain Conference, age 40-49, African American male, is the pastor of Montbello UCC in Denver, Colorado. He has previously served churches in Florida, the Church of the Open Door in Miami and First Congregational UCC in Sarasota. Mr. Fauther currently serves on the Council for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations. He is a former member of the Church's Executive Council, serving for two years in an unexpired term. While at the Chicago Theological Seminary, he served on the United Church Board for World Ministries in the previous structure. Mr. Fauther has also served as a delegate to the General Synod.

4—Chandra Soans, Pennsylvania Southeast Conference, age 50-59, Asian American male, is the pastor of Grace-Trinity UCC in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Mr. Soans started Grace-Trinity in 1996 with 11 members. It now has 225 members and is credited with helping revival an inner-city neighborhood. Mr. Soans teaches part-time at Lancaster Theological Seminar. He previously served as the Vice-moderator of PAAM and is active in the Philadelphia Association. Mr. Soans is a volunteer at neighborhood hospitals, his local school system and in organizing blood drives.

5—Chris Rankin, Penn Central Conference, age 30-39, European American male, is pastor of St. John's UCC in Fredericksburg, Pennsylvania. Mr. Rankin has served at St. John's since 2004. He is currently engaged in the D.Min. program at Lancaster Theological Seminary. Mr. Rankin served on the Conference Board of Directors and on its Search Committee to call a Conference Minister in 2003-04. He has also served as president of his Association. Mr. Rankin is also serving on the Association Committee on Ministry.

6—Joe Schulte, South Dakota Conference, age 50-59, European American male, is pastor of Yankton UCC in Yankton, South Dakota. Mr. Schulte has previously served as an interim Conference Minister for the Penn Northeast Conference, Association Minister in the Ohio Conference and as a local church pastor in Bangor, Maine and Dubuque, Iowa. Mr. Schulte served on the Kentucky Council of Churches and other ecumenical organizations. He serves on his local foster care review board and on a suicide prevention board. He plays the guitar and enjoys reading. In nominating Mr. Schulte the South Dakota Conference Minister says he will bring expertise as a church educator, financial expertise and development experience to the national setting.

Recommended for Nomination from the Historically Underrepresented Groups:

Coalition for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns;

1—Eric C. Smith, age 30-39, European American lay male, Associate Director of the Maine Council of Churches and member of First Parish Church Congregational UCC, Freeport, Maine. Mr. Smith serves on the Maine Conference Nominating Committee. He was the Conference

Parliamentarian in 2007. He is a previous Assistant Moderator of the General Synod (2005). He served as the Interim Executive for Health and Wholeness Advocacy in the Wider Church Ministries in 2002. Mr. Smith is on the Board of Directors of the Maine AIDS Alliance, an Equality Maine volunteer and a member of the Maine Gay Men's Chorus.

United Black Christians;

1— Angela Myers, age 40-49, African American lay female, a teacher in the Chesapeake, Virginia School System and a member of Providence UCC in Chesapeake, Virginia, where she also teaches Sunday School. She has recently been named Teacher of the Year. She is the past President and past Vice-president of her local PTA. She currently serves as the Parliamentarian of the organization. Ms. Myers currently serves on the General Synod Nominating Committee. She was elected by the Executive Council to the committee in April of 2008, filling a vacancy in the Class of 2009. She is eligible, and has been nominated, to serve a full six-year term.

NESA JOSEPH – ELECTION TO UNITED CHURCH FOUNDATION, CLASS OF 2013

**It was voted
09-03-EC-23**

to adopt the recommendation: to elect to the corporate membership of the United Church Foundation Nesa Joseph to the Class of 2013.

CAROL SHIPLEY – ELECTION TO CHAIR THE 27th GENERAL SYNOD NOMINATING COMMITTEE

**It was voted
09-03-EC-24**

to adopt the recommendation: in accordance with Section 197 paragraph c of the Constitution and Bylaws, the election of Carol Shipley, European American lay female, 50-59, from the Montana-Northern Wyoming Conference as the Chair of the 27th General Synod Nominating Committee.

VOICE WITHOUT VOTE AT THE 27th GENERAL SYNOD

**It was voted
09-03-EC-25**

to adopt the recommendation: to confer the status of Voice without Vote at the 27th General Synod to the following groups making application for such status in accordance with Rule 10 of the Standing Rules (see the following).

Groups submitting petitions in compliance with Rule 10:

1—Focus Renewal Ministries: Ms. Janet Smithson, Shepard of the Hills UCC (Pennsylvania Southeast) / Mr. Vernon Stoop, Church by the Sea UCC (Florida) designated for accreditation.

2—The UCC Professional Chaplains and Counselors: Ms. Dorothy Shelly, St. Peter's Tohickon UCC (Pennsylvania Southeast) / Ms. Martha Jacobs, The Riverside Church (New York) designated for accreditation.

3—UCC Military Chaplains: Ms. Janice Dashner, O'Fallon UCC (Illinois South) / Mr. Christopher Edwards, Good Shepherd of Faith UCC (Illinois South) designated for accreditation.

4—Network for Environmental and Economic Responsibility: Mr. Doug Hunt, Church of Our Savior UCC (Southeast) / Mr. Donald Clark, Pleasant Hill Community UCC (Southeast) designated for accreditation.

5—United Church of Christ Musicians Association: Mr. Harold Smith, Unity Hill UCC (Connecticut) / Ms. Carole Fanslow, Unity Hill UCC (Connecticut) designated for accreditation.

6—Faithful and Welcoming Churches of the United Church of Christ: Mr. Bob Thompson, Corinth Reformed Church (Southern) / Mr. John Roberts, Eden UCC (Illinois South) designated for accreditation.

7—The Ministry for God’s Animals: Mr. Stephen Kaufman, Plymouth Church of Shaker Heights (Ohio) / Ms. Lisa Hadler, First Congregational UCC (Illinois) designated for accreditation.

8—The Association of United Church Educators: Mr. John Whitebread, Plymouth Congregational UCC (Indiana Kentucky) / Ms. Debbie Gline Allen, 1st Parish UCC (New Hampshire) designated for accreditation.

9—Biblical Witness Fellowship: Mr. David Runnion-Bareford, Candia Congregational Church (New Hampshire) / Mr. William Boylan, Byfield Parish Church (Massachusetts) designated for accreditation.

10—The Association of Intentional Interim Ministers: Ms. Patricia Barth, Rockville UCC (Central Atlantic) / Ms. Andrea Stoeckel, Faith United UCC (New York) designated for accreditation.

11—Christians for Justice Action: Mr. Kwami Osei Reed, Heritage Fellowship UCC (Central Atlantic) / Ms. Ann Marie Coleman, University Church UCC (Illinois Conference) designated for accreditation.

PROTOCOL FOR PARTICIPATION IN LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

**It was voted
09-03-EC-26**

to adopt the recommendation: to approve the “Protocol for Participation in Legal Proceedings” (see following).

“Proposed Protocol for Participation in Legal Proceedings

The Executive Council authorizes and directs its Executive Committee and the General Minister and President, after consultation with the Nationwide Special Counsel, to determine when it is consistent with the mission or otherwise in the best interests of the General Synod to file friend of the court briefs or other pleadings on its behalf in court proceedings.

When the General Synod, by resolution or otherwise, has previously adopted a position on the subject about which the legal proceedings relate, the Chair of the Executive Council and General Minister and President alone may authorize the filing of a friend of the court brief or other pleading consistent with the Synod action(s).

When the General Synod has not previously adopted a position on the subject about which legal proceedings relate, the Executive Committee of the Executive Council may authorize the filing of a friend of the court brief or other pleading in the legal proceedings.

Under no circumstances shall the General Synod be made party to litigation without the approval of the Executive Committee of this Council.

CHANGES TO THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS RELATING TO THE MINISTRY ISSUES

**It was voted
09-03-EC-30**

to adopt the recommendation of the Organizational Life committee and to approve the changes to the United Church of Christ Constitution and Bylaws relating to the Ministry Issues as written in the Constitution in paragraphs 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, and 30 and in the Bylaws in paragraphs 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 110, 131, 134, 135, 137, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 148, 149, 150, 151, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, and 158 . The following changes are also recommended:

Paragraph 24 to now read:

Ordained ministerial standing is an ongoing covenant of mutual accountability, as described in Paragraph 25, which recognizes and continues the authorization of that person to perform the duties and exercise the prerogatives of ordained ministry. Ordained ministerial standing in the United Church of Christ is granted by and held in an Association in cooperation with a local church and confers voting membership in the Association.

Paragraph 44 to now read:

When an Association meets, its voting membership includes the lay delegates selected by and representing the Local Churches of that Association, all Ordained Ministers holding standing or ordained ministerial partner standing therein, all Commissioned Ministers and Licensed Ministers of that Association.

Paragraph 46 to now read:

A Conference is that body of the United Church of Christ which is composed of all Local Churches in a geographical area, all Ordained Ministers holding standing or ordained ministerial partner standing in its Associations or in the Conference itself when acting as an Association, all Commissioned Ministers and Licensed Ministers in its Associations.

Paragraph 141 to now read:

A Commissioned Minister who retires from service as a Commissioned Minister may be recognized by the Association as a Retired Commissioned Minister of the United Church of Christ. Voting

membership in that Association is thereby granted. Such recognition is regularly reviewed.

Paragraph 146 to now read:

A Licensed Minister who retires from service as a Licensed Minister may be recognized by the Association as a Retired Licensed Minister of the United Church of Christ. Voting membership in that Association is thereby granted. Such recognition is regularly reviewed.

**RETURN TO HISTORICAL NAME, CHRISTMAS FUND FOR
THE VETERANS OF THE CROSS AND THE EMERGENCY
FUND**

**It was voted
09-03-EC-31**

to adopt the recommendation: that the Executive Council supports a return to the historical name of the UCC Christmas Fund Special Mission Offering to the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund, pending the approval of the Board of Ministerial Assistance.

Appendix A (to the Executive Council Report)

**REPORT OF LITIGATION
RE: CENTER CHURCH, ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

Background

In April, 2008, the Executive Council “designated John Thomas, Jim Moos, and John Humphrey to work with Nationwide Special Counsel Don Clark to determine how to respond to the request from the Southeast Conference to participate in litigation regarding Center Church in Atlanta, Georgia. The group will have the authority on behalf of the UCC to make all decisions regarding the litigation, including whether to participate as a party and settle the case.” The group was asked to report to the Executive Council at the fall, 2008 meeting

Report

The appointed group agreed that the denomination’s only involvement should be to assign any beneficial interests in the property to the Southeast Conference. Accordingly, an assignment of interest was drafted and executed in consultation with the Southeast Conference attorney and the Conference Minister.

It is our understanding that the assignee, the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ, is asserting title to the Center Church property by virtue of the terms of the bequest of Harriett Cox and the assignment conveyed by the denomination. Neither the Executive Council nor any other national setting of the church is currently a participant in this litigation, nor has the group named by the Executive Council authorized any such participation in the future.

Appendix B (to the Executive Council Report)

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL STANDING RULES AND ACCOMPANYING APPENDICES As amended October 18, 2008

The Executive Council of the United Church of Christ (UCC) is ordered first of all by the Constitution and Bylaws of the UCC, and by the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws of the Executive Council. All rules of the Executive Council, their interpretation and application must be consistent with those documents.

1. All meetings of the Executive Council and its committees shall be open to members of the UCC. The Executive Council and its committees may grant voice to other than Council members by majority vote. A closed session may be held as part of any meeting, with attendance limited to members unless enlarged by invitation, and with minutes recorded and safeguarded by a member of the Council designated by the chairperson.
2. The Executive Council shall elect its chairperson and vice-chairperson from among the members in the two continuing classes in accordance with the following:
 - a. During any of three successive biennial elections there shall be elected as chairperson of the Council at least one racial/ethnic person and at least one woman; and as chairperson or vice-chairperson, at least one each: laywoman, clergywoman, clergyman.
 - b. The election shall take place according to the following procedure:
 1. By the spring meeting of the Council before General Synod, the chairperson shall appoint a Nominating Committee composed of seven (7) persons from the outgoing class of the Council and representative of the diversity of the society.
 2. The Nominating Committee shall solicit from each member of the Council her/his availability in either office as well as recommendation for candidates, including self, for each office.
 3. From this information, the Nominating Committee shall nominate one or two persons for each office. Nominees must be eligible, qualified, and willing to serve. The Committee will report its nominations to the Council membership at least four weeks prior to General Synod.
 4. The election shall take place at the Council meeting preceding General Synod.
3. Each elected member is expected to attend all Executive Council meetings. No seat on the Executive Council may be shared, and there shall be no substitute for an elected member. If unable to attend a meeting, the member shall inform the Minister for Governing Body Relations in advance of the reason for such absence. Acceptable reasons for absences include:

- a. illness of self;
- b. illness, crisis or death in the family;
- c. unavoidable obligation to job, school, or family.

If an elected member has more than one absence of this type in a biennium, or two consecutive absences the Chairperson or Vice-chairperson of the Executive Council shall correspond, or direct the Minister for Governing Body Relations to correspond, with the member concerning her/his interest and ability to serve on the Executive Council.

4. A person's membership on the Executive Council may be terminated by majority vote of the Council if the person is absent without acceptable reason from two consecutive regular meetings of the Council, provided that the following procedure is observed:

Not fewer than twenty (20) days or more than sixty (60) days before the meeting of the Council at which a vote for termination of membership shall be taken, the Minister for Governing Body Relations shall send to the member involved a written notice setting forth:

- a. a reminder of the two consecutive un-excused absences;
- b. a statement that the Council will vote on termination of her/his membership;
- c. the time and place of the meeting;
- d. an invitation to explain her/his absences prior to the vote;
- e. the option to resign from the Executive Council instead of letting the matter come to a vote.

5. The Executive Council shall fill vacancies in the Council according to the following procedure:
 - a. The Council shall receive a member's resignation or otherwise confirm with the nominating body that a vacancy exists.
 - b. The composition of the Council will be reviewed for diversity and a replacement nominee shall be requested from the appropriate body (Conference, organization, board, etc) in accordance with appropriate diversity criteria.
 - c. Names will be reviewed by the Organizational Life Committee for compliance with the requirement to maintain the diversity to which the UCC is committed. Additional replacement names may be requested. Names submitted for nomination or election or nomination by the Executive Council shall include identifying information regarding race, age, gender, ecclesiastical standing, and identification with historically underrepresented groups, if applicable.
 - d. Replacement name(s) will be forwarded to the Executive Council for election.
 - e. Persons who have been named as replacements by their Conference or group may attend the next Council meeting with voice without vote pending their election, provided that the diversity criteria have been met.

6. The Organizational Life Committee, on behalf of the Executive Council, will continuously review the composition of the Executive Council membership, and propose additional members in accordance with Bylaw 224, as appropriate.
7. With the consent of the Council Chair and Chair(s) of the Organizational Life Committee, an electronic or email ballot to fill vacancies may be prepared by the General Synod Nominating Committee or its staff and presented to the Council, in advance of its next regular meeting, with the purpose being to allow for the election of nominees to the Executive Council, Covenanted Ministries Boards of Directors, the General Synod Nominating Committee or positions of General Synod Moderator or Assistant Moderator, allowing them to begin immediate service. The ballot shall reflect the needs of the particular board or office to maintain or enhance its diversity in compliance with the applicable sections of the Bylaws. In compliance with the applicable section of the Executive Council Bylaws, a quorum is the majority of those voting, and the votes will be returned within the timeline established on the ballot. The results of the electronic ballot shall be received by the Organizational Life Committee and reported to the Council, for inclusion in the permanent record.
8. Orientation and anti-racism training for new members of the Executive Council shall be the responsibility of the Office of General Ministries in consultation with the Chairperson of the Executive Council. Orientation shall be conducted as soon as possible and practical after election and qualification of new members but prior to any deliberation and decision by the new Executive Council.
9. An Executive Council member may, by virtue of office, be elected or appointed to membership on other boards, committees, or councils within or without the UCC. In the event of retirement, resignation or termination from membership in the Council, the person shall relinquish all such other memberships as well.
10. Executive Council members representing the Covenanted Ministries shall attend General Synod as part of the Executive Council, but will be seated with the Covenanted Ministry Board that they represent.
11. Except as otherwise provided for, the most recent edition of *Roberts Rules of Order* shall govern the proceedings of the Council.
12. All plenary sessions of the Executive Council shall be recorded for the purposes of assisting with the preparation of the official record (closed session excluded; for the purposes of a record of closed sessions, see Rule 1). The recordings of the proceedings shall be the custody of the Secretary of the Corporation.

13. Executive Council members or others who are considering submitting agenda items for the Executive Council or an Executive Council committee, should consult with the Executive Council Chairperson no later than six weeks in advance of the meeting date. The submitter of the proposed agenda item and the Executive Council Chairperson, or her/his designee, shall reach agreement on a schedule for preparing appropriate accompanying materials. The Executive Council Chairperson will make final decisions concerning the agenda proposed to the Executive Council at the beginning of its meeting. A committee chairperson will make final decisions about the agenda proposed to the committee at the beginning of its meeting. A member thereof, with the consent of two-thirds of the membership present, may add items to the agenda of a committee or of the Executive Council.

14. Resolutions for public release may be proposed by a member of the Executive Council, a Local Church, an Association, a Conference, a Covenanted, Associated or Affiliated Ministry, or other body as defined in Article VI of the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ. Proposed resolutions shall be submitted to the Chairperson of the Executive Council no later than four weeks in advance of the meeting date. A two-thirds majority vote of the members present and voting shall be required for adoption of a resolution for public release. A minority resolution may be proposed when a resolution for public release has been adopted by the affirmative vote of less than seventy-five percent of the members voting on the majority resolution. Resolutions for public release submitted after the deadline may be considered with the consent of two-thirds of the membership present. Resolution for public release shall include the following format provisions:
 - a. a description of the submitters of the resolution;
 - b. a brief summary of the resolution;
 - c. the Biblical, theological and ethical rationale and the expected outcome;
 - d. the text of the resolution, which should be so phrased as not to bring into question the Christian commitment of those who do not agree;
 - e. a statement that the funding for the implementation of the resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and funds available.

The Executive Council shall honor and respect the work and ministry of other parts of the Church. Especially when a resolution for public release has a direct impact on a setting of the United Church of Christ, the Executive Council shall consider the resolution in consultation and collaboration with the affected setting. Before voting on the resolution, the Executive Council shall particularly consider whether to seek the advice, counsel, and requests of Conference and Association Ministers or elected or appointed leaders of the affected setting. When a resolution is submitted to the Executive Council Chairperson at least four weeks in advance of the meeting date, the chairperson shall complete such consultation before the Executive Council meeting at which the resolution will be considered.

15. For purposes of determining Executive Council membership, conference residence is defined as the Conference in which the Local Church is located where the individual holds membership, or, in the case of clergy, the Conference and Association in which ministerial standing is held.
16. Membership to boards of those UCC, related colleges, seminaries and other institutions requiring Executive Council election shall be consistent with the United Church of Christ's commitment to be a multiracial and multicultural Church, reflecting the racial and ethnic diversity of society with a balance of leadership between women and men, open and accessible to all.
17. The Executive Council will:
 - a. continue to use its corporate investments to promote Equal Employment Opportunities and Affirmative Action plans and programs in such corporations;
 - b. inform those vendors and merchants with whom it does business of the Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action policies of the UCC and of its preference to do business with vendors and merchants who are Equal Opportunity employers and who are pursuing Affirmative Action plans and programs.
18. The Executive Council will meet only in establishments that follow a policy of Equal Employment Opportunity in managerial positions.
19. Members and staff shall be reimbursed in accordance with the established travel policy for reasonable expenses associated with attending a meeting of the Executive Council; as provided below:
 - a. Expenses of Executive Council members and staff, as defined in the UCC Bylaws 221 & 222, in attendance at meetings of the Executive Council shall be paid from the Executive Council budget.
 - b. When a member of the Executive Council is asked by the General Minister and President, Executive Council Chairperson or by Council vote to represent the UCC, expenses of that person may be paid from the Executive Council budget.
20. The Executive Council authorizes the General Minister and President and Chief Financial Officer to obtain directors' and officers' coverage and fidelity bonds for the UCC and to allocate the annual premium for the policy in consultation with the bodies that are named insured.
21. The Executive Council shall recommend to the General Synod the appointment of at least five (5) Tellers, some of whom may be designated as Alternate Tellers. Tellers shall be chosen from among those delegates elected by their conference. The Minister for

Governing Body Relations may consult with the Conference Ministers to identify delegates for recommendation.

22. At its fall meeting following the General Synod, the Executive Council shall elect the Chair of the General Synod Nominating Committee from the membership of the continuing classes of the committee who will then serve through the next General Synod. The Executive Council shall consult the General Synod Nominating Committee and solicit from it a nomination for its Chairperson.
23. At its fall meeting following the General Synod, the Executive Council shall elect the Chair of the General Synod Credentials Committee, from the membership of the continuing class of the committee, who will then serve through the next General Synod. The Executive Council shall consult the General Synod Credentials Committee and solicit from it a nomination for its Chairperson.
24. At its fall meeting prior to the General Synod the Chair of the Executive Council shall appoint a Committee of Reference. The Committee of Reference will:
 - a. make its initial recommendations for the disposition of items of business to the spring meeting of the Council; and make a second report to the Council meeting immediately prior to the Synod;
 - b. be familiar with the Standing Rules of the General Synod; the decision-making process of the General Synod; the administrative procedure and criteria regarding preparation of business for the Synod;
 - c. review each item of business forwarded to the Synod and, in accordance with standing rules of the General Synod, recommend referral in one of the following ways:
 1. directly to the Synod plenary;
 2. to a committee of the Synod;
 3. to an implementing body or the Executive Council.

When its recommendation is #3, the presenters shall be informed as quickly as possible and given opportunity to confer.

- d. receive new business introduced at the beginning of Synod or from the floor of Synod and make recommendations to the Synod through the Business Committee or, if necessary, on behalf of the Business Committee;
- e. serve as advisors to the Office of General Ministries on business matters which pose problems;
- f. work with the Agenda Committee on recommendations for the handling of new business to be presented to the floor;
- g. monitor committee reports and plenary actions to ensure that every item of business is handled and none are ignored;
- h. use the criteria detailed in the General Synod Standing Rules in reviewing proposed General Synod business.

25. In compliance with section 214 of the Constitution and Bylaws, the Executive Council shall appoint a search committee to call a nominee for an initial term as Associate General Minister and will vote whether to confirm the nominee before her/his name is submitted to the General Synod for election.
26. The Executive Council shall administer the process for the renomination of, and vote whether to re-nominate to the General Synod, the Associate General Minister for a second term (see appendix A).
27. In compliance with Section 211 of the Constitution and Bylaws, the Executive Council shall appoint a search committee to call a nominee for an initial term as General Minister and President and will vote whether to confirm the nominee before her/his name is submitted to the General Synod for election.
28. The Executive Council shall administer the process for the renomination of, and vote whether to re-nominate to the General Synod, the General Minister and President for a second term (see appendix B).
29. At its fall meeting following the General Synod, the Organizational Life Committee shall review the Standing Rules of the Executive Council and recommend changes, additions or deletions to the Council, with the intent being to update the Standing Rules with the start of each class of members.
30. The Standing Rules may be revised at any time by a majority vote of the Executive Council.

APPENDIX E: GENERAL SYNOD NOMINATING COMMITTEE ROSTER

GENERAL SYNOD NOMINATING COMMITTEE ROSTER

Jane Barthell (class of 2011)

Carol Shipley (class of 2009)

Toni Buffalo (class of 2013)

Nelson Spencer (class of 2013)

Sheldon Culver (class of 2013)

John Tamilio (class of 2011)

Diane Darling (class of 2009)

Bernard Wilson (class of 2013)

J. Matthew Deal (class of 2013)

Lori Yamashiro (class of 2013)

Jeffrey Dirrim (class of 2011)

Jane Ellefson (class of 2009)

Eppie F. Encabo (class of 2011)

M. Jane Hess (class of 2011)

Gail Holmes (class of 2013)

Lindy Holt (class of 2011)

Judy Jones (class of 2013)

Nancy Klingeman (class of 2009)

Melinda Quellhorst Lacefield (class of 2009)

Norma Lopez (class of 2013)

Norma Mengel (class of 2013)

Angela Myers (class of 2009)

Tina Phillips (class of 2011)

Carmen Flores Rance (class of 2009)

Raymond Reid (class of 2013)

Leroy Sanders (class of 2011)

APPENDIX F: GENERAL SYNOD NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

CAROL SHIPLEY'S REPORT TO GENERAL SYNOD

Good afternoon.

I would like to remind you that the report of the Twenty-seventh General Synod Nominating Committee is posted on the United Church of Christ website. It includes a listing of the nominees we have submitted for election and their biographical data. We believe we are presenting a group of outstanding individuals for your confirmation. The committee has worked long and hard to first identify qualified individuals and then provide for the proper diversity requirements of each of the five bodies.

Simply, the task of the Nominating Committee is to provide a slate of nominees for the Executive Council and Boards of Directors of the Justice and Witness Ministries, Local Church Ministries, Office of General Ministries and Wider Church Ministries, Class of 2015 and for Moderator and Assistant Moderators of the Twenty-eighth General Synod. We believe the quality of candidates we are presenting today far exceeds that simple charge to the committee.

Members of the committee and its incredibly hard-working staff have worked in close cooperation with the Conferences and eligible Groups to bring you this truly gifted class of leaders for our Church. We have refined the nominating process making it a far less cumbersome and much more efficient process, which the Conferences and Groups have welcomed. Two years ago my predecessor, Mr. Joe Thomas, promised delegates to the Twenty-sixth General Synod that the nominating process would be refined and improved over the next biennium. I can report to you that has been accomplished.

Nevertheless, the nominating process necessarily remains a time-intensive and crucial task for all involved in it and for the Church itself. It is critical to the future well-being of the United Church of Christ, providing visionary volunteer leaders, representing nearly every profession and employing every skill-set needed to provide the oversight of the national setting and its many and varied missions.

The report of the Twenty-seventh General Synod Nominating Committee is signed by each member of the committee. I would like to personally thank them for the long and sometimes difficult hours they have given to the Church. I would also thank Lee Foley and Denise Shimell for the staff support they have provided the committee. They have been critical to achieving the outstanding slate of candidates being presented.

Mr. Moderator, on behalf of the Twenty-seventh General Synod Nominating Committee, I submit the report of the committee, as posted on the website.

APPENDIX G: REPORT OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULES

Church, Member & Allocation of Offerings Summary

Combined Statements of Financial Position

National Offices Mission Funding & Spending

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Church, Member & Allocation of Offerings Summary

Year	Inflation	# of UCC Churches		# of UCC Members		Total Church Support		Retained at Local		Forwarded as Basic		Forwarded as Special		Forward to Non-UCC	
<i>TREND</i>		<i>Decrease</i>		<i>Decrease</i>		<i>Increase</i>		<i>Increase</i>		<i>Decrease</i>		<i>Increase</i>		<i>Increase</i>	
		<i>Decr Rate</i>		<i>Decr Rate</i>		<i>Incr Rate</i>		<i>Incr Rate</i>		<i>Decr Rate</i>		<i>Incr Rate</i>		<i>Incr Rate</i>	
5 Year Change (03-07)		-7.36%		-12.06%		6.15%		6.72%		-8.68%		3.51%		8.31%	
10 Year Change (98-07)		-10.64%		-19.41%		24.40%		26.76%		-9.86%		2.08%		20.56%	
2008	3.9%	Not Yet Available													
2007	2.9%	5,377	-2.6%	1,145,281	-4.3%	936,862,062	1.8%	859,744,628	1.6%	29,250,288	1.0%	18,031,264	0.5%	29,835,882	11.7%
2006	3.2%	5,518	-2.0%	1,196,474	-2.7%	920,094,007	0.9%	846,482,513	1.9%	28,953,205	-2.0%	17,937,043	-24.4%	26,721,346	-5.2%
2005	3.4%	5,633	-2.0%	1,229,953	-3.3%	911,992,432	1.5%	830,504,646	0.6%	29,556,822	-4.9%	23,736,661	50.3%	28,197,303	3.0%
2004	3.3%	5,750	-0.9%	1,271,785	-2.3%	898,920,873	1.9%	825,439,329	2.5%	31,085,284	-3.0%	15,788,628	-9.4%	27,376,116	-0.6%
2003	1.9%	5,804	-0.8%	1,302,308	-2.2%	882,592,587	1.6%	805,594,300	1.9%	32,032,272	0.3%	17,419,063	-2.7%	27,546,952	-2.7%
2002	2.4%	5,850	-0.6%	1,330,985	-2.1%	868,490,964	1.9%	790,333,608	2.3%	31,930,224	-3.9%	17,899,770	-9.3%	28,312,485	2.9%
2001	1.6%	5,888	-0.6%	1,359,105	-1.3%	852,656,158	3.5%	772,191,485	-0.4%	33,233,854	-0.7%	19,726,152	9.6%	27,504,667	1.7%
2000	3.4%	5,923	-0.6%	1,377,320	-1.7%	823,517,810	6.0%	774,991,925	10.6%	33,484,086	1.4%	18,006,030	-2.0%	27,035,769	7.5%
1999	2.7%	5,961	-0.9%	1,401,682	-1.4%	777,195,512	3.2%	700,645,114	3.3%	33,029,411	1.8%	18,381,026	4.1%	25,139,961	1.6%
1998	1.6%	6,017	-0.7%	1,421,088	-1.2%	753,113,157	4.4%	678,251,694	4.2%	32,449,339	2.7%	17,663,613	7.2%	24,748,511	12.0%
1997	1.7%	6,061	-0.8%	1,438,181	-1.0%	721,356,966	5.3%	651,176,773	5.8%	31,608,230	-0.6%	16,480,628	0.5%	22,091,335	6.1%
1996	3.3%	6,110	-0.6%	1,452,565	-1.3%	684,740,819	6.0%	615,727,028	6.5%	31,791,872	2.0%	16,392,180	-1.1%	20,829,739	3.8%
1995	2.5%	6,145		1,472,213		645,849,413		578,042,965		31,162,896		16,570,439		20,073,113	

Statistics taken from the United Church of Christ Yearbook

**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
COMBINED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
FOR THE COVENANTED MINISTRIES AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
AS OF DECEMBER 31**

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
ASSETS					
Cash & cash equivalents	\$ 5,695,955	\$ 4,150,106	\$ 2,646,098	\$ 6,076,653	\$ 3,500,712
Investments	283,696,644	292,655,868	304,182,719	307,392,489	230,861,464
Church building loans	18,644,344	17,222,322	18,487,046	18,545,451	19,645,788
Support	6,240,029	6,095,301	5,359,652	3,641,669	505,536
Property sale	3,342,425	3,084,577	3,034,891	2,519,463	4,416,162
Other	5,380,241	4,653,778	5,110,242	5,479,072	10,154,666
Publications inventory	1,287,899	1,206,609	1,049,780	855,272	864,455
Property held for sale	2,995,582	1,491,631	1,854,094	1,195,000	1,195,000
Prepaid expenses and other assets	633,155	551,662	998,958	1,472,132	596,236
Funds held in trust by others	12,623,783	12,780,528	13,708,941	14,308,489	9,863,351
Property and equipment, net	11,031,058	10,616,805	10,071,973	9,743,177	9,537,613
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 351,571,115</u>	<u>\$ 354,509,187</u>	<u>\$ 366,504,394</u>	<u>\$ 371,228,867</u>	<u>\$ 291,140,983</u>
LIABILITIES					
Line of credit	\$ 2,000,000				
Accounts Payable	2,181,084	501,007	849,255	884,124	1,042,902
Accrued pension and other post-employment benefits	2,110,223	2,205,119	2,250,744	4,366,565	4,745,871
Other accrued liabilities	3,809,856	5,734,510	4,567,375	4,625,728	5,575,660
Funds held for others	3,091,800	2,895,371	2,513,947	2,575,087	1,832,820
Other liabilities	488,050	483,678	722,963	411,179	3,408,817
Total liabilities	\$ 13,681,013	\$ 11,819,685	\$ 10,904,284	\$ 12,862,683	\$ 16,606,070
NET ASSETS					
Unrestricted:					
Undesignated	\$ 81,839,456	\$ 72,743,810	\$ 79,412,152	\$ 73,760,621	\$ 61,945,265
Board designated	12,187,789	12,290,725	13,005,727	14,505,727	17,458,667
Church building	43,877,535	44,859,302	46,093,648	50,764,487	49,679,295
Funds functioning as endowment	80,772,758	86,294,611	87,444,793	90,651,361	39,902,776
Net investment in plant	11,031,058	10,616,805	10,071,973	9,743,177	9,537,613
Total unrestricted	\$ 229,708,596	\$ 226,805,253	\$ 236,028,293	\$ 239,425,373	\$ 178,523,616
Donor restricted:					
Temporarily	\$ 61,564,291	\$ 68,913,344	\$ 71,466,437	\$ 70,054,116	\$ 49,401,836
Permanently	46,617,215	46,970,905	48,105,380	48,886,695	46,609,461
Total net assets	\$ 337,890,102	\$ 342,689,502	\$ 355,600,110	\$ 358,366,184	\$ 274,534,913
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 351,571,115</u>	<u>\$ 354,509,187</u>	<u>\$ 366,504,394</u>	<u>\$ 371,228,867</u>	<u>\$ 291,140,983</u>

**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
NATIONAL OFFICES MISSION FUNDING & SPENDING
AS REPORTED IN ANNUAL REPORTS**

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<u>Mission Funding</u>					
OCWM - National Basic Support	\$10,105,258	\$ 9,337,535	\$ 8,503,042	\$ 9,037,502	\$ 8,508,481
OCWM - Special Support	\$ 4,091,009	\$ 4,063,072	\$ 4,065,916	\$ 4,057,233	\$ 4,154,457
Total Return Draw on Investments	\$10,863,232	\$ 9,768,599	\$ 9,442,320	\$ 8,178,392	\$ 8,441,786
Trusts & Gifts	\$ 1,507,108	\$ 4,361,742	\$ 5,869,978	\$ 3,227,463	\$ 1,822,852
Reimbursements	\$ 3,215,643	\$ 4,180,193	\$ 2,632,978	\$ 2,866,449	\$ 2,206,582
Resource Sales/Fees	\$ 3,516,481	\$ 2,925,044	\$ 2,505,626	\$ 3,425,680	\$ 2,310,208
Draw on Unrestricted Reserves	\$ 826,810	\$ 1,474,775	\$ 1,736,452	\$ 956,579	\$ 1,536,033
Other	\$ 225,784	\$ 243,255	\$ 1,197,697	\$ 1,649,467	\$ 205,038
Totals	\$34,351,325	\$36,354,215	\$35,954,009	\$33,398,765	\$29,185,437
<u>Mission Spending</u>					
Program Ministries	\$ 9,234,308	\$11,677,306	\$11,609,988	\$ 8,664,791	\$ 7,169,980
Staff Ministries	\$11,968,728	\$11,158,939	\$11,010,657	\$10,255,007	\$10,383,641
Overseas Personnel	\$ 3,351,989	\$ 3,108,932	\$ 2,755,049	\$ 2,290,720	\$ 2,044,374
Retired Overseas Personnel	\$ 456,631	\$ 465,860	\$ 453,207	\$ 487,616	\$ 530,285
Shared Ministries	\$ 3,005,702	\$ 2,934,893	\$ 2,838,449	\$ 2,738,656	\$ 2,879,739
Operating & Support Ministries	\$ 2,585,607	\$ 2,681,763	\$ 3,111,568	\$ 2,487,833	\$ 2,415,113
Church House & Other Facilities	\$ 1,090,043	\$ 1,137,337	\$ 1,135,738	\$ 1,143,273	\$ 1,186,227
Ministry of Governance	\$ 489,166	\$ 1,120,538	\$ 467,934	\$ 3,348,497	\$ 895,798
Grants & Subsidies	\$ 2,169,151	\$ 2,068,647	\$ 2,571,419	\$ 1,982,372	\$ 1,680,281
Totals	\$34,351,325	\$36,354,215	\$35,954,009	\$33,398,765	\$29,185,437

Notes:

2005 and 2007 were Synod Years resulting in additional expenses in Ministry of Governance
2008 are unaudited amounts due to report completed during audit process

Financial/Budget Presentation

Financial stewardship should always be a priority of any organization. The United Church of Christ as a not for profit is currently under no governmental oversight for its finances and accountability, however there is a growing trend amongst states to enact laws regulating certain accountability functions for not for profits. Some states now require audits, and audit committees for non profits with operating budgets in excess of \$2 million. We should be pleased that such oversight has been in place in the Covenanted Ministries and Executive Council as each of the Boards has incorporated such practices into the work of staff and the board. In fact, the 2008 audit is nearing completion and the draft audited Financial Statements for the year ending December 31, 2008 will be reviewed by the Audit Coordinating Committee following General Synod.

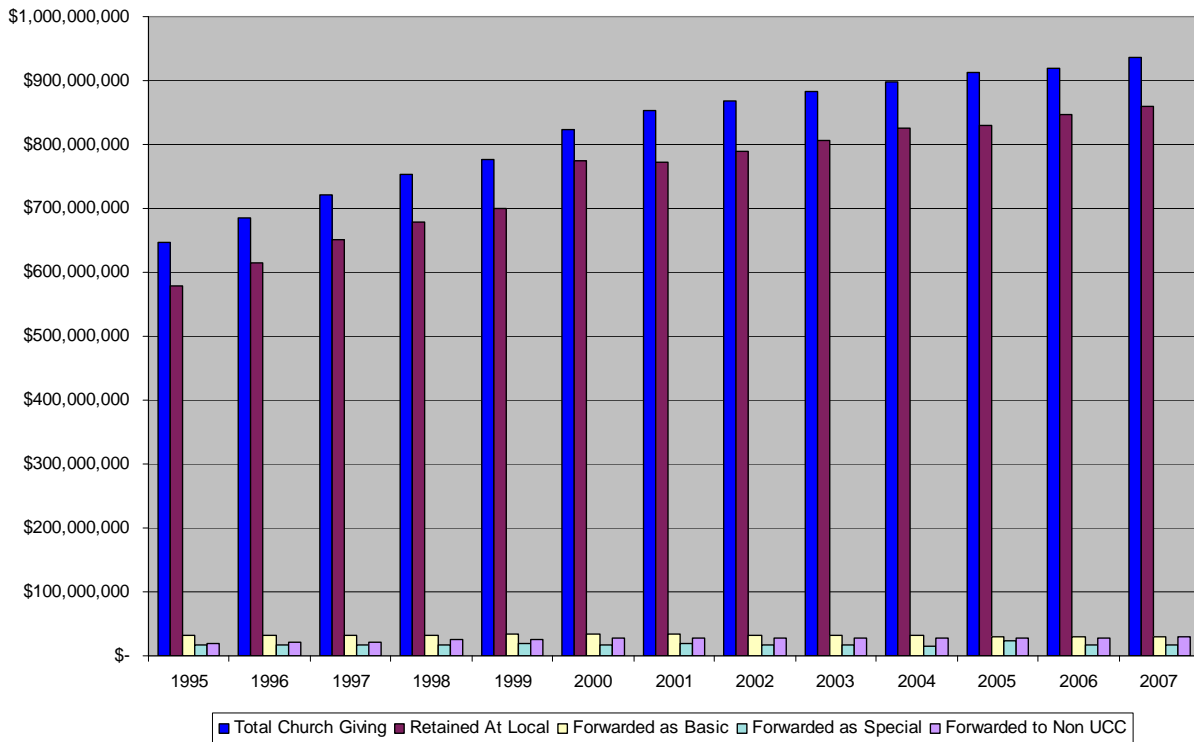
As market dynamics have changed, resource funding has decreased and mission demands grown, we have used these challenges, in the context of a best practices mindset, to synthesize a stronger leaner structure that redefined certain processes and priorities and redeployed resources in collaborative ways that best allow coordinated efforts to take root, build new relationships and get work done. One element of our work is estimating financial resources in the context of change and recommending faithful estimates to use when constructing the budgets for upcoming years.

Prior to presenting the votes for the budgetary allocation of OCWM Basic Support for the years 2010 and 2011, the Collegium and financial staff concluded that the actions General Synod will be asked to take at the end of this presentation would be enhanced with information related to a brief history of giving at the local churches and conferences along with a combined report of the revenues and expenses of the four Covenanted Ministries and Executive Council as of year end 2008. It is not our intention to begin reading a line by line report of numbers to you, but to provide you with summary amounts by major funding and expenditure categories for each of the covenanted ministries.

Trends in Giving

The first chart that you see provides a history of giving trends at the local church level, what is retained at the local church, what is forwarded to conferences and the national setting as basic and special support and the amount retained locally for other ministries related to our local churches. For the ten year period 1998 through 2007, total church giving has increased by 24.4%; the amount retained at the local church has increased by 26.8%; the dollars forwarded to non-UCC related organizations has increased by 20.6%; receipts for special support have grown by 2.1% but the amount of funds forwarded to the conferences for basic support has decreased by 9.9%.

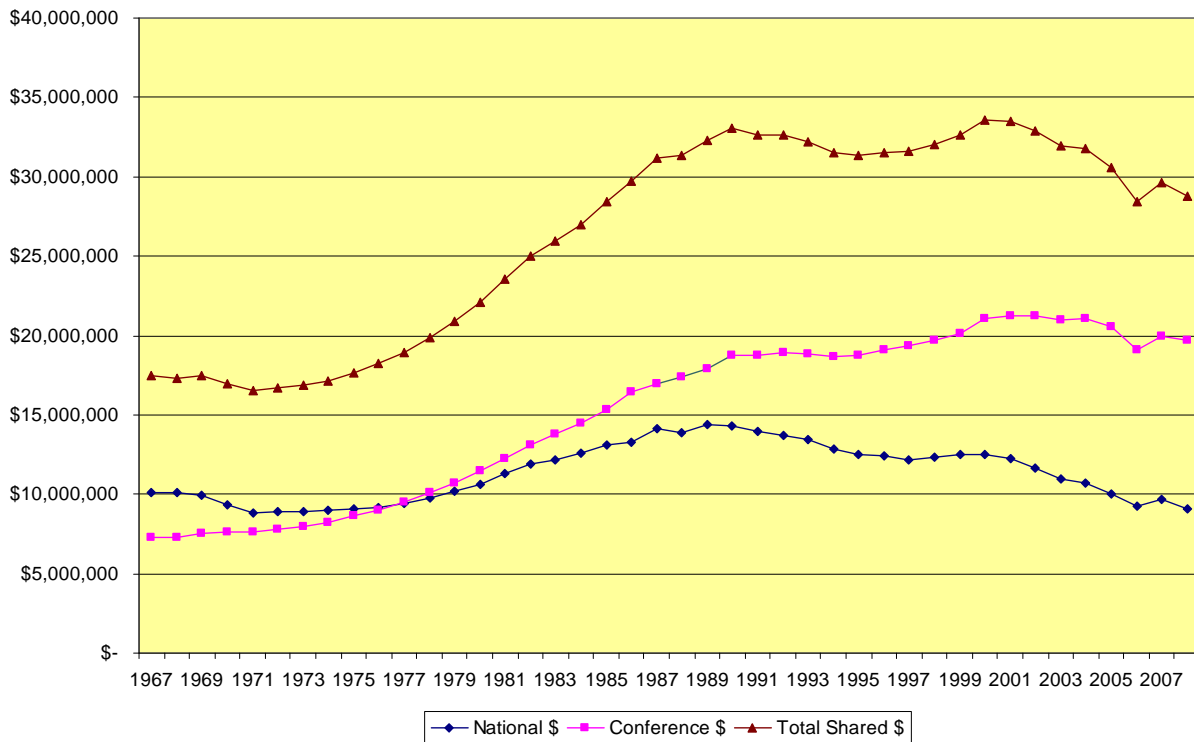
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST GIVING TRENDS



OCWM Basic & Special Support

OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) Basic Support is a fundamental component of annual resource support for the National and Conference Offices of the UCC. OCWM originates at the local church level; then flows to Conference and Association settings and ultimately a portion is forwarded to National. While total church giving has increased annually, it has not kept up with the rate of inflation which may have contributed to the annual decline in the percentage forwarded from local churches each year. At the National level, the percentage of OCWM Basic Support forwarded by conferences has declined by 26.5 percentage points since 1967. In 1967, 58.0% of OCWM Basic Support was shared with National, while in 2008 this figure was only 31.5%. Below is a graph showing the combined dollars received by the Conferences and National and the change in distribution of OCWM Basic Support between the National and Conference settings.

NATIONAL & CONFERENCE SHARED BASIC SUPPORT



National Basic Support Retention Percentage Comparison		
Year	1967	2008
Conference	42.0%	68.5%
National	58.0%	31.5%

OCWM Special Support is comprised of four special offerings: Neighbors in Need, which decreased by 9.6% in 2008 from 2007; One Great Hour of Sharing, which had a 5.5% increase between 2007 and 2008; Strengthen the Church which also experienced an increase was up 5.3% in 2008 compared to 2007; and the Christmas Fund which decreased by 4.4% between the last two years.

Investment Outlook

2008 marked the worst year for financial markets since the Great Depression. Troubles that began in subprime mortgages morphed into a global recession as confidence and trust in the global financial system sharply eroded. Lending dried up as fears rose. The economy fell off a cliff and job losses mounted and were the most in a year since 1945. The financial landscape radically changed as large financial institutions required government help to stay afloat.

Governments and central banks in the U.S., Europe and Asia have taken unprecedented, dramatic measures and pledged trillions of dollars of stimulus to restart economic and job growth.

The rapid deterioration in the economy and employment and downward pressure on housing prices took a heavy toll on financial markets in 2008. The investments held by the National Offices are broadly diversified across asset classes ranging from certificates of deposits to pooled funds invested in stocks and bonds. In normal times diversification across these assets classes is beneficial. However, given the breadth of the decline in the financial markets, diversification did not insulate funds from the turmoil in 2008.

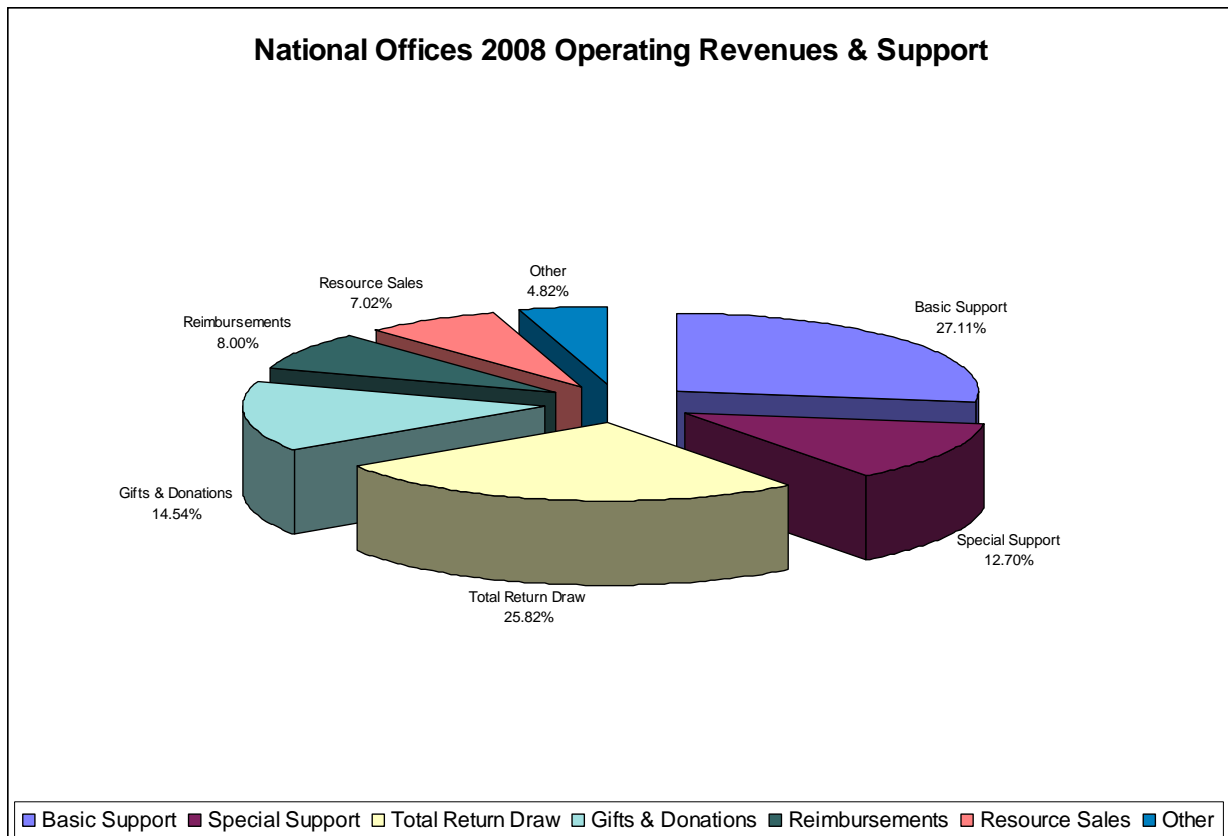
The lack of confidence was felt in all segments of the market with the exception of U.S. Treasuries. Global stock prices, corporate bonds, mortgage-backed securities and commodities plunged, erasing the gains of prior years. The S&P 500 which was at an all-time high in October 2007 fell 42% to a low of 903 by the end of 2008. In this same period, international stocks fared even worse, falling 50%. Prices of corporate bond fell more than was earned in coupon income in 2008, resulting in a return of -5%. Oil reached an all-time high of \$147 a barrel in July of 2008 only to fall to \$53 a barrel by year end. Only U.S. Treasury bonds ended 2008 with a positive return, which pushed the compounded annual Treasury return above the equity return over the last 10 years, which has occurred only 10 times in 74 rolling 10 year periods from 1926 through 2008.

When will the markets stabilize? Will the government money pledged to prop up national economies result in an economic recovery, protect jobs and steady the housing market and the banking system? Unfortunately, no one knows for certain. Some economists see recovery in the second half of 2009 but many are calling for weakness to persist throughout 2009. The most pessimistic see the global contraction lasting several years if the government is unsuccessful in getting credit flowing again in restored fully functional financial markets. Until confidence is restored in the banking system, it is difficult to see stabilization in the financial markets let alone recovery. There are a number of issues that need to be worked out for a sustainable recovery. The flow of credit to financial institutions, corporations and consumers must be restored. Banks must eliminate bad assets from their balance sheets, rebuild capital ratios and begin lending again in line with stronger lending standards. Housing prices must stabilize and inventories of unsold homes must be taken down. Consumers must repair their balance sheets and regain confidence that the unemployment rate will reverse directions. Industries must restructure to remain competitive in a global economy. The government must balance short-term stimulus objectives with long-term benefits and deficit reduction targets. The Federal Reserve must fight deflationary forces in the near term and be vigilant about inflationary pressures that the massive stimulus programs may trigger in the future.

Most of us have never experienced a period when our retirement savings and the value of our homes have declined simultaneously to the degree they have in the current bear market. It may be helpful to remember that in the past century, financial markets endured two world wars, a great depression and numerous recessions and yet recovered in each case to set new highs. Looking at past bear markets, years of sharp negative returns are often followed by years of strong returns. Patience will likely be required in the current situation but there is no reason to believe that this time it will be different.¹

In 2004, the market value of investments for the Covenanted Ministries and Executive Council was \$283 million and by 2007, the value had grown to \$307 million. At year end 2008, the national settings, as well as other settings of the church, experienced a sharp decline in their investment values, experiencing a \$77 million decline in this asset. The result of this decline will result in lower draws to support the budgets beginning in 2010.

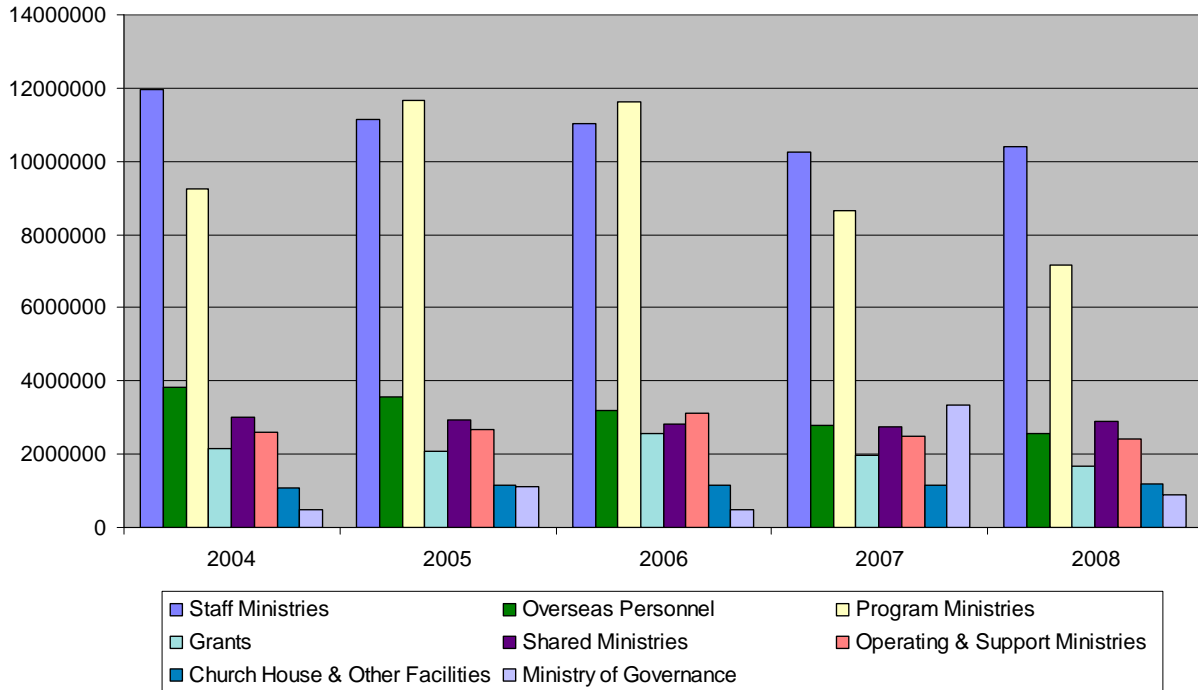
As shown in the next chart, 25.8% of the resources needed to fund the 2008 National Offices budget were drawn from invested funds. Draw levels may exceed the board mandated percentages which are currently 4% and 5% in order to fully support the programmatic work of the ministries. Excess draws are generally approved through the budget review process but this means unrestricted reserves are being allocated to balance the annual budget. During times when the draw calculations are expected to decline and national basic support is dropping, the ministries either have to rely upon the additional draws, or make reductions to staff and program.



The cumulative effect of declining OCWM National Basic Support, lack of significant growth in OCWM Special Support, declining draws from investments, health care costs that have increased by 25% since 2004, inflation and the use of unrestricted reserves has necessitated budget cuts that have included elimination of program, reduced grants and reduction in national staff and missionaries over the past several years.

The chart below provides a view of how expenses have declined, particularly since 2005. There is a report attached to this document that provides the expenses as reported in the annual report, adjusted for allocated costs related to United Church of Christ Resources. Of greatest note are the \$1.2 million decrease in overseas personnel, both active and retired since 2004; the \$1.9 million decrease in national staff expenses and the \$2.1 million decrease in program expenses.

National Offices Mission Funding & Spending as Reported in Annual Reports



While this report has focused on declining revenues and the decreases in staff and programs resulting from revenue declines, it is important to remember the vital work that each of the Covenanted Ministries and Executive Council has been charged with either through their predecessor bodies organizing documents, or through mandates handed down by prior General Synods.

It is unfortunate that the economy has weakened to the point that unemployment has risen to its highest number in over 20 years. There are very few individuals that do not know of someone who has been affected by the markets, bank closings and job losses. The national setting is not immune to these realities.

The Executive Council is bringing a vote to the floor recommending a National Basic Support base of \$8.5 million for 2010 and 2011. After review of year to date receipts and conversations

with Conferences it is apparent that the Covenanted Ministries will need to budget on a more realistic base of \$8.2 to \$8.3 million dollars. The OCWM trends named previously, the declining market values, and increased costs are forcing the Collegium to review 2009 expenditures and to plan for significant cuts in 2010. One painful decision already made and announced is that *United Church News*, a cherished publication, will no longer be available as a print resource. Painful decisions about staffing levels and related personnel costs are being considered. Programs will need to be reviewed as well. Faithful stewardship of our resources, and care for the future viability of the national setting, are high priorities.

At the same time, leadership is working aggressively to support existing streams of income and develop new ones. A significant reorganization of national fund raising efforts to more adequately match new philanthropic realities and claim new electronic capacity is underway. The partnership between conferences and the national setting for OCWM fund raising and promotion has been strengthened. A new publication more suited to today's needs is being prepared to replace *UCNews*. Revisioning the roles, structures and vocation of Conferences toward sustainability in the future is underway. And a refocusing of efforts to strengthen local churches for fuller partnership in the whole ministry of the church is in process. Financial challenges are real and pressing. But significant opportunities present themselves as well.

¹Investment Outlook information provide by Ms. Catherine Waterworth, Chief Investment Officer, The Pension Boards-United Church of Christ.

APPENDIX H: REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Good afternoon.

The Credentials Committee of the Twenty-seventh General Synod met this morning and examined the demographic make-up of the 38 Conference Delegations. While the committee found certain instances where improvement can be made, it certifies the Delegation-as-a-Whole.

The committee has directed its staff to work with the Minister for Youth and Young Adult Ministries and the Minister for Conference Relations to assist the Conferences in increasing the percentage of delegates under the age of 30 at the Twenty-eighth General Synod in Tampa in 2011.

The committee has directed its staff to work with the Minister for Affirmative Action and Diversity Initiatives and the Minister for Conference Relations to increase the number of delegates who are people of color at the Twenty-eighth General Synod.

Further, the committee asks that Conferences be intentional when selecting delegates to the Twenty-eighth General Synod, that they be intentional in selecting delegates under the age of 30 and intentional in seeking and selecting delegates who are people of color.

And, the committee asks the churches of the United Church of Christ to be accepting as the population shifts and as the color and complexion of you neighborhoods change. We ask the local churches to be proactive in inviting people of color and young people to join them.

Mr. Moderator that concludes the Report of the Credentials Committee.

Thanks you.