TO RECOGNIZE THE NEED FOR COMPASSIONATE
CARE AND HEALING TO OUR VETERANS
Approved As Amended

A Resolution of Witness

TEXT OF THE MOTION


Whereas the political landscape has shifted since World War II and military objectives and purpose have become increasingly abstract veterans suffer from a crisis of purpose which affects the individual as well as our nation.

Whereas political objects are nebulous and the military is used as political “muscle” on the global stage our service personnel are sometimes left feeling used and betrayed by the society they swore an allegiance to protect and defend.

Whereas these persons are our brothers and sisters, parents, neighbors, students, employees, and cohorts we have an obligation as followers of Jesus to be sensitive to their needs.

Whereas the therapists within the Veteran’s Administration are now speaking about the “moral injury” of military service the moral injury is a spiritual and soul issue and needs to be addressed by The Church.

Whereas the United Church of Christ extends gracious hospitality and welcome to all people from every walk of life it behooves the United Church of Christ to become sensitive to the effects of military service and accept their responsibility to protect the veteran upon their return home.

Therefore be it resolved that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ challenges all of the United Church of Christ congregations to express compassionate care and healing ministry to all our veterans and their families through education and the development of sensitivity to the issues of soul healing and spiritual care.

Be it further resolved that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages “local church” awareness and reaching out to local Veteran's Administration, Veteran's Service Commission, support of Veteran's Courts, through the compassion that is rooted in the teachings and example of Jesus.

Be it further resolved that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages the Office of the Local Church Ministries to partner with the Soul Repair Center of Brite Divinity School in the development of resources for use by our military chaplains, Veteran’s Administrations Chaplains and our local congregations to express compassionate care and a healing ministry to our
veterans and their families.

Be it finally resolved that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ challenges the members and local churches of the United Church of Christ to serve veterans with healing care beyond established medical and military protocols and seek ways to welcome our veterans home, through worship, fellowship, pastoral care and advocacy to reintegrate them in our communities, and help to bring peace to veterans, their families and the world.

**FUNDING**

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.

**IMPLEMENTATION**

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