

1           **A CALL TO RESPOND TO VIOLENCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN**  
2           **HONDURAS RESULTING FROM ILLEGAL DRUG TRAFFICKING AND DRUG**  
3           **POLICY IN THE UNITED STATES**

4                           **Approved As Amended**

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6                           **A Resolution of Witness**

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8           **TEXT OF THE MOTION**  
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10       WHEREAS Honduras has experienced a rise in gang violence - it now has the highest homicide  
11       rate per capita in the world with 6,200 killings, or 82.1 murders per 100,000 inhabitants in 2010  
12       alone (UN report, 10/2011); and

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14       WHEREAS this gang violence is directly connected to the trafficking of illegal drugs that are  
15       eventually sold here in the United States; and

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17       WHEREAS the pastors and churches and people of faith in Honduras are unable to speak out  
18       against the gangs and the illegal drug trade without the risk of retaliation that threatens their  
19       personal safety; and

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21       WHEREAS we in this country have the freedom to speak out against the drug-related violence  
22       that threatens the quality of life of the people in Honduras; and

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24       WHEREAS we have the responsibility to discourage complacency by raising the awareness of  
25       the struggles that others face;

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27       THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Twenty-ninth General Synod, gathering in Long  
28       Beach, California, calls upon this gathering, the United Church of Christ, its congregations, and  
29       wider church settings to raise awareness and engage in educational activities on how the sale and  
30       consumption of illegal drugs in this country result in violence and exacerbates human rights  
31       violations that threaten not only the quality of life, but life itself, for our sisters and brothers in  
32       Honduras; and

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34       LET IT BE RESOLVED that, since pastors in Honduras cannot speak out against the gangs and  
35       the violence without risk to their personal safety, the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United  
36       Church of Christ urges pastors in churches throughout the United Church of Christ to speak out  
37       from their pulpits to give voice to the Hondurans' plight; and

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39       LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ  
40       calls upon Wider Church Ministries and Justice and Witness Ministries to serve as a resource of  
41       information and an active support network, and to provide primary and secondary levels of  
42       intervention for advocacy regarding the on-going struggle of our Honduran brothers and sisters;  
43       and

45 LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ  
46 calls upon our ecumenical partners to advocate for peace and justice and human rights in  
47 Honduras; and

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49 LET IT BE RESOLVED the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ  
50 encourages the churches of the United Church of Christ, in a spirit of solidarity, to hold the  
51 people of Honduras and our global partners in prayer; and

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53 LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of  
54 Christ encourages the United Church of Christ in its various settings to call on our nation's  
55 governmental leaders to reassess and recreate our U.S. foreign policy and drug policy to address  
56 this situation of human rights violations, illegal drug trafficking, and violence that impacts the  
57 quality of life in Honduras.

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59 **FUNDING**

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

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64 **IMPLEMENTATION**

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