

**Report on GS28 Resolution:  
U.S. Ratification of a Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty**

Rev. Michael Neuroth, Justice and Witness Ministries  
April 1, 2013

The 28<sup>th</sup> General Synod Resolution passed a [resolution titled “U.S. Ratification of a Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.”](#) The resolution was sent to Justice and Witness to implement in accordance with the overall mandates and funds available. The passage of the resolution followed a major ecumenical advocacy and nuclear non-proliferation community victory in 2010 with the passage of the New Strategic Arms Treaty with Russia (NEW START). UCC members and JWM were active in supporting this treaty that is key to ensuring nuclear non-proliferation through [education and advocacy alerts.](#)

In 2011, groups sought to follow-up on this victory by pushing for passage of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). The UCC resolution called on UCC “members, congregations, and various settings to call on the United States Senate to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty as one of its most important foreign policy priorities in Congress.”

Over the past two years, despite the Obama administration’s continued assurance that CTBT ratification remains a priority, little has happened toward achieving that goal. The Senate remains about ten votes shy- a steep challenge but not impossible. If any major push is to come, it is expected to come soon during the president’s second term. The success of New START is still fresh in our political memory and offers hope of bipartisan support. JWM has and will continue to monitor progress and provide support for ratification on the national and local level as needed. Recent efforts have included continuing to push for cuts in nuclear weapons and testing in our national budget debates and connecting UCC leaders when a specific push is needed. In 2011 one of our own UCC pastors signed on to a [letter directed toward key policy makers Sen. Hatch and Sen. Lee in Utah in support of CTBT.](#)

The resolution is an important mandate that will guide future action and advocacy in support of CTBT ratification by the Senate..

Links referenced:

- <http://uccfiles.com/synod/resolutions/Resolution-on-a-Nuclear-Treaty.pdf>
- <https://secure3.convio.net/ucc/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=717>
- [http://fcn.org/assets/issues/nuclear/Markey\\_thank\\_you.pdf](http://fcn.org/assets/issues/nuclear/Markey_thank_you.pdf)
- [http://fcn.org/issues/nuclear/Utah\\_religious\\_leaders\\_support\\_the\\_ctbt/](http://fcn.org/issues/nuclear/Utah_religious_leaders_support_the_ctbt/)