MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-THIRD GENERAL SYNOD
OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI
JULY 13–JULY 17, 2001
A JOINT GENERAL SYNOD/ASSEMBLY
WITH
THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

Editors

Mary Ann Murray
Terry L. White

Recorders

Dana C. Downs
Michell Farrow
Melisa J. Izzo
Christopher P. Noffke
Diane Schurr
Robert C. Snyder
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Committees 2:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

Dinner (Sponsored Meals) 5:00 p.m.–7:30 p.m.
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Moderators of the General Synod
Moderator: The Rev. Nancy S. Taylor (CPC)
Assistant Moderators: Mr. Richard M. Harter (MASS)
and Ms. Linda M. Jaramillo (CPC)

Officers of the United Church of Christ
(The Collegium)
Mr. Dale L. Bishop, Executive Minister,
Wider Church Ministries
Ms. Edith A. Guffey, Associate General Minister,
Office of General Ministries
Ms. Bernice Powell Jackson, Executive Minister,
Justice and Witness Ministries
The Rev. José A. Malayang, Executive Minister,
Local Church Ministries
The Rev. John H. Thomas, General Minister and
President, Office of General Ministries

Parliamentarians
Parliamentarian: Ms. Annie Wynn Neal
Floor Parliamentarian: The Rev. Malcolm C. Bertram

UCC Representatives to Joint Worship
Committee
The Rev. Pat DeJong, The Rev. Elizabeth Aguilar,
The Rev. Sarah Fredriksen, The Rev. Ken Iha,
Ms. Judy Rose, assisted by: Mr. Arthur Clyde,
The Rev. June Boutwell, The Rev. Robert Chase, and
The Rev. Cliff Aerie

Bible Storytellers
Ms. Jan Ferguson, The Rev. Richard F. Ward, and
Mr. Omar Vargas

Theological Reflectors
Mr. Dale L. Bishop and Ms. Rita Nakashima Brock

Business Committee (The Executive Council)
Chair: Mr. David D. Anderson
Vice Chair: The Rev. Kekapa P. K. Lee

Class of 2001
Mr. David D. Anderson (WASH)
Ms. June Bumanglag (CYAAM)
Mrs. Thelma Faulk (NY)
The Rev. Charlotte L. Frantz (MINN)
Mr. Juan M. Gaud (PR)
Mr. Ronald Glass (PNE)
The Rev. Sandra S. Hulse (UCF)
Ms. Linda M. Jaramillo (CPC)
Mr. John W. Lardin (MICH)
Ms. Katie Lear (At-Large Youth)
Mr. Karl Limvere (NOPL)
The Rev. Richard W. McBride (CHE)
Mr. E. Chris Montaño (SW)
The Rev. Carol Munro Mosley (CHHSRM)
The Rev. Elizabeth C. Nordbeck (CTE)
Ms. Zaida Maldonado Pérez (HC)
The Rev. Bela Poznan (CA, SY)
Mr. Robert Sandman (OHIO)
The Rev. Harold C. Smith (PB)
Ms. Christina Thomas (UCCDM)
The Rev. Randi Walker (Council for Ecumenism)
Mr. Ray Young (MONT-NO. WYO)

Class of 2003
Ms. Beth Anastasia (CAC)
Ms. Jennifer L. Craig (MASS)
Ms. Gretchen Eick (KO)
The Rev. Norman W. Jackson (CAIM)
The Rev. Corey L. Larson (IOWA)
The Rev. Kekapa P. K. Lee (HI)
The Rev. Robert A. Lee (VT)
The Rev. Jennifer Crane Moss (SE)
Ms. Enid Pinkney (FLA)
Mr. Raymond Reid (SOC)
Ms. Arlene Sadler (PW)
Ms. Olgha Sierra Sandman (ILL)
Mr. Jack Silas (CA, NV, S)
The Rev. Iese Tuuao (PAAM)

Class of 2005
The Rev. Elizabeth Aguilar (CHM)
The Rev. M. Winston Baldwin Jr. (NEB)
The Rev. Carol A. Barth-Schuss (IK)
The Rev. Krista Lynn Betz (MOMS)
Mr. J. David Bishop (PC)
Ms. Bernie Bliss (RM)
Mr. William E. Draper (IS)
Mr. Marshall D. Eckblad II (WIS)
The Rev. Mitzi N. Eilts (COALITION)
The Rev. Charles S. Hastings Jr. (SC)
Ms. Robin Peters Henne (NH)
The Rev. Alexander Jamison Sr. (MRSEJ)
Ms. Lauri Janke (SD)
Mr. Brian Lapis (CONN)
Mr. Raymond F. Pierce (RI)
Ms. Marilyn K. Serfass (PSE)
Ms. Reba Walker (COREM)

Representatives from the Boards of Directors of
the Covenanted Ministries
Ms. Leigh Greenhaw (LCM)
Ms. Rose Lee (JWM)
The Rev. Marilyn Stavenger (WCM)
Conference Ministers
The Rev. John R. Deekenback (CAC)
The Rev. Timothy C. Downs (SE)
The Rev. John H. Krueger (KO)
The Rev. John M. Schaeffer (MONT-NO. WY.O.)

Credentials Committee
Class of 2001
The Rev. Bruce S. Herrboldt (SD)
Ms. Judy Hopkins (IOWA)
The Rev. Eric Kirkgaard (WIS)
Mr. Juan Romon (CONN)

Class of 2003
Anita Chase (CPC)
Betty Hornbach (IL)
Jack Kemp (MINN)
Jonathan Pia (OHIO)
Petra Malleis-Sternberg (SW)

Nominating Committee
Class of 2001
The Rev. Jean Andrews (VT)
Mr. Robert Bock (WIS)
Ms. Winifred Boub (CAIM)
Mr. Ben Broadbent (RM)
The Rev. Mary J. Fairley (MRSEJ)
Ms. Martha Mendóza-Morales (ILL)
Mr. Wilfred Torrez Mercado (CYYAM)
The Rev. Peter Shober (MONT-NO. WY.O.)

Class of 2003
Mr. Terry Brino-Dean (PSE)
Ms. Sandy Casmey (MINN)
The Rev. Diane S. Darling (COALITION)
Ms. Sachiko Fajita (HI)
The Rev. Ramon R. Hernandez (MICH)
Mr. Clifford John (UBC)
The Rev. Rosemary McCombs-Maxey (KO)
Ms. Mildred Prune (CHM)
The Rev. Yvonne Samuel (MOMS)

Class of 2005
The Rev. Betsy E. Braw (PC)
The Rev. Doris L. Dunn (UCCDM)
Ms. Margaret Ellis (SOC)
The Rev. Valentino Lassiter (OHIO)
Mr. David R. Mann (COREM)
Mr. Jordan M. Patterson (HI)
The Rev. Tyrone L. Reinhartd (PAAM)
The Rev. Kent J. Siladi (CONN)
Ms. Katie Tabler (IK)

Ex-Officio without Vote
Mrs. Joan F. Brannick (PB)
Mr. Donald G. Hart (UCF)

Tellers
Mr. Douglas Anderson (MASS)
The Rev. Barron Barley (PC)
Mr. Bruce Beckwith (JWM)
Mr. James Bock (MINN)
Ms. Leah Boris (WASH)
The Rev. Barbara Bullock (IOWA)
Ms. Dollie Burwell (JWM)
Ms. Paula L. Campbell (WCM)
Mr. Mark Clark (SW)
The Rev. Sol Codillo (MOMS)
Mr. Aladrian Crowder (CAC)
Ms. Leslie Davis (IL)
The Rev. Jean Erb (CPC)
The Rev. Denise Esslinger (CONN)
Mr. Rudy Gruenke (OHIO)
Mr. Arnold Hosbach (OHIO)
The Rev. Beth Robey Hyde (RM)
Ms. Samantha Jewell (IK)
Ms. Wylenthia Johnson (ILS)
Ms. Edith Kapiko (HI)
Ms. Ann Lamont (SD)
Ms. Deanna Lewis (KO)
Ms. Suzanne Lewis (FLA)
Mr. James McCarlin (RM)
The Rev. Patrick Morris (PSE)
Mr. William Powell (CAC)
Mr. James Robison (PNE)
Mr. John Henry Scott (CONN)
Mr. Aaron Sinay (LCM)
Ms. Brenda B. Square (SC)
Ms. Deborah Trega (WCM)
The Rev. Brandon Woosley (IL)
CONFERENCE SYMBOLS USED IN THESE MINUTES

Note: In many of the lists of names in these Minutes, the individual’s Conference membership is indicated by capital letters following the name.

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MINUTES
TWENTY THIRD GENERAL SYNOD
Gather at the Welcome Table
H. ROE BARTLE HALL CONFERENCE CENTER
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI
JULY 13–JULY 17, 2001
FRIDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 13, 2001
First Plenary Session

1. GENERAL SYNOD CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING CELEBRATION
Moderator Nancy Taylor (CPC) called the Twenty-third General Synod to order at 2:30 p.m. and invited the assembly to share in an opening celebration. At the conclusion of the celebration, the Moderator began the formal business meeting at 3:50 p.m.

2. INITIAL REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE
The Moderator introduced the Rev. Eric Kirkegaard (WIS), Chair of the Credentials Committee. Mr. Kirkegaard reported that there were 749 voting Delegates, 78 Associate Delegates and Honored Guests, 55 members of the Business Committee, 520 Visitors, and 27 General Synod staff, for a total of 1,429 persons present at General Synod. Mr. Kirkegaard moved that the Twenty-third General Synod adopt the report of the Credentials Committee.

01-GS-1 VOTED: The Twenty-third General Synod adopts the report of the Credentials Committee.

3. QUORUM DECLARED
Moderator Taylor declared a quorum was present and the Twenty-third General Synod was in session.

4. ADOPTION OF THE GENERAL SYNOD AGENDA
Before the adoption of the Agenda, Ms. Taylor reminded delegates that, according to Bylaw 226, the Executive Council acts as the Business Committee and Committee of Reference of the General Synod during its sessions. In this role, the Executive Council prepares the agenda and schedule of all meetings of the General Synod and recommends changes to the schedule as needed. She also pointed out that in order to complete the business of the Twenty-third General Synod, it would be essential to remain on schedule. The Moderator urged delegates to be succinct in their comments and explained the rules pertaining to the use of the microphones.

Ms. Taylor called on Mr. David Anderson (WASH), Chair of the Business Committee, who drew attention to the agenda on page 11 of the Program, Worship, and Business Book (Appendix A). Mr. Anderson thanked the Executive Council for their work over the last two years. He explained the time limits for each committee’s report and how the agenda differed from previous General Synod meetings. On behalf of the Business Committee, he then moved the adoption of the Agenda for the Twenty-third General Synod.

01-GS-2 VOTED: The Twenty-third General Synod adopts the Agenda as printed in the Program, Worship, and Business Book and authorizes the Business Committee to make any necessary adjustments.

5. ADOPTION OF THE STANDING RULES
Mr. Anderson directed the delegates to the Recommended Standing Rules printed in the Delegate Handbook and moved their adoption.

01-GS-3 VOTED: The Twenty-third General Synod adopts the Standing Rules as contained in the Delegate Handbook.

6. DESIGNATION OF RESOURCE PERSONS GRANTED VOICE WITHOUT VOTE
Mr. Anderson stated that, on occasion, persons who do not have voice at General Synod would be asked to make reports, speak to certain issues, serve as resource people, or introduce nominees. Mr. Anderson moved that voice-without-vote status be granted to these persons.

01-GS-4 VOTED: The Twenty-third General Synod grants voice without vote to those persons who have been approved by the Business Committee as designated resource persons for the presentation of reports, resolutions, or other concerns that are on the agenda of the General Synod. The privilege of voice for these persons extends only for the time that the particular item of business is under consideration and at the invitation of the appropriate committee Chair, other Synod delegate, or the Moderator and/or Assistant Moderators.
Mr. Anderson directed the attention of the delegates to pages 97–98 of the Program, Worship, and Business Book to locate the list of persons who had been appointed by the Executive Council to serve as Tellers for the Twenty-third General Synod (see list below). He then invited the designated Tellers to stand to be recognized.

Wylenthia Johnson (IS)
Leah Boris (WASH)
Leslie Davis (ILL)
Suzanne Lewis (FLA)
Edith Kapiko (HI)
Ann Lamont (SD)
Aladrian Crowder (CAC)
Arnold Hospach (OHIO)
Sol Codillo Jr. (MOMS)
Douglas Anderson (MASS)
Jim Bock (MINN)
Mark Clark (SW)
William Powell (CAC)
James McLarin (RM)
Rudy Gruenke (OHIO)
Brandon Woolsey (ILL)
Denise Esslinger (CONN)
Beth Robey Hyde (RM)
Jean Erb (CPC)
James Robinson (PNE)
Patrick Morris (PSE)
Barbara Bullock (IOWA)
Deanna Lewis (KO)
John Henry Scott (CONN)
Samantha Jewell (IK)
Aaron Sinay (LCM)
Brenda B. Square (SC)
Deborah Trega (WCM)
Barron Barley (PC)
Dollie Burwell (JWM)
Paula L. Campbell (WCM)

8. DESIGNATION OF GROUPS GRANTED VOICE WITHOUT VOTE
Referring to the Executive Council Report that had been placed at the delegates tables prior to the plenary, Mr. Anderson moved that the representatives of the listed groups be granted voice without vote while the General Synod is in session.

01-GS-5 VOTED: The Twenty-third General Synod grants voice without vote status to the following groups and their stated representatives:

Association of United Church Intentional Interim Ministries
    Marjorie MacNeil
Association of United Church Educators
    Candi Cain Borgman, Betsy Woodward
Biblical Witness Fellowship
    David Runnion-Bareford, Steve Clifford
Christians for Justice Action
    Kwame Osei Reed, Donna Schaper
Focus Renewal Ministries
    Vernon Stoop, Eugene Ziegler
Ministers in Higher Education
    Mark Horton, Sara Smith
Network for Environmental and Economic Responsibility
    Donald Clark, Douglas Hunt
Student Ecumenical Partnership
    Matt Deal, Megan Hoelle
United Church of Christ Chaplains in Health Care
    Joan Jones, Allan Kramer-Moyer
United Church of Christ Expression of Marriage Encounter
    Herb and Bonnie Schafale
United Church of Christ Fellowship of Reconciliation
    Mark Lukens, Tom Warren
United Church of Christ Parents of Lesbians and Gays
    Gordon Sherman, Robert Strommen
United Church of Christ Parish Nurse and Physicians Network
    Sheryl Cross, Richard Braun
United Church of Christ Office Support Staff Network
    Patricia Peirce
United Church of Christ Urban Ministries Network
    Art Waidman, John Selders
Welfare Working Groups
    Mary Alice Butofsky, James Stewart

9. INTRODUCTION OF GENERAL SYNOD LEADERSHIP
Moderator Taylor introduced the General Synod leadership, including Assistant Moderators, Mr. Richard M. Harter (MASS) and Ms. Linda Jarmillo (CPC), and the Parliamentarians, Ms. Annie Wynn Neal (SE) and the Rev. Malcolm C. Bertram (MASS).

Mr. Bertram instructed delegates on the role of the Floor Parliamentarian and gave a brief overview of parliamentary procedure. Ms. Neal spoke about her role in
supporting the Moderator and Assistant Moderators.

Ms. Taylor identified the members of the Agenda Committee and explained their role. She asked for help in completing the business of the General Synod by Tuesday evening and reminded the delegates that any work left unaddressed would be acted on by the Executive Council after the General Synod.

10. GREETINGS FROM KANSAS-OKLAHOMA AND MISSOURI MID-SOUTH CONFERENCES
The Moderator introduced the Rev. Gayle Engel, Missouri Mid-South Conference Minister, and the Rev. John Krueger, Kansas-Oklahoma Conference Minister, who welcomed the delegates and visitors to the Twenty-third General Synod. They, in turn, welcomed the Rev. Robert Atkinson, pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ in Lexington, Missouri, and the Rev. Timothy Murtaugh, pastor of Kingsway Christian Church in Memphis, Tennessee, who served as coordinators of the 750 volunteers who worked to prepare the Twenty-third General Synod. A hearty round of applause was invited to express the gratitude of the assembly for all their hard work. The Moderator thanked the Local Arrangements Committee and all of the members of the Kansas-Oklahoma and Missouri Mid-South Conferences who had worked so hard to make the General Synod a memorable event.

11. INTRODUCTION OF GENERAL SYNOD STAFF LEADERSHIP
The Moderator called on the Administrator of the Twenty-third General Synod, Ms. Edith A. Guffey, to introduce the General Synod staff leadership.

Registrar
Mary Ann Murray
Speak Out! Coordinator
Richard O. Sparrow
Exhibits
Ken Daniels, Valerie Smith
Service Projects
K. C. Ackley
AV Coordinators
Proclamation, Identity, and Communication Ministry, Bob Chase, Team Leader
Recorders
Dana Downs, Michell Farrow, Melissa Izzo, Christopher Noffke, Dianne Schurr, Robert Snyder, and coordinator
Terry White
Registrar Staff
Laurinda Hafner, Destiny Shellhammer
Stage Manager
Dorothy Lester

Facilities Coordinator
Carol Zygmont
Worship Committee Chair and Staff
Pat deJong, Chair, and Arthur Clyde
Committee Process Staff
Lorin W. Cope, staff, Sheldon W. Culver, Karen A. Mosby, Robert O. Ullman
Floor Coordinator
Richard O. Sparrow
Agenda Coordinator
Sheila Kelly
Office Staff
Byron and Pat Light, Christina Chapple
Youth Program
June Boutwell and Ken Brown
Spanish Language Translators
Candida Mattos, Ray Rassi

12. INITIAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Moderator Taylor reintroduced Mr. Anderson, Chair of the Business Committee. Mr. Anderson spoke of the work of the Executive Council over the past two years, noting the written reports in the Program, Worship, and Business Book, the Addendum, and a report distributed in the assembly hall. He then placed before the Synod the names of the nominees for the General Synod Nominating Committee, class of 2007, and explained the election process.

13. REPORT OF THE GENERAL SYNOD NOMINATING COMMITTEE
The Assistant Moderator called on the Rev. Peter S. Shober (MONT-NO.WYO), Co-Chair of the General Synod Nominating Committee, to present the Report of the General Synod Nominating Committee. Mr. Shober directed the delegates to page 119 of the Program, Worship, and Business Book, pointing out the listing of nominees and their biographical data. He noted that changes were being recommended in the Bylaws related to the filling of unexpired terms. He explained that the Nominating Committee was charged this year with the task of presenting nominees for the positions of Moderator and Assistant Moderators for the Twenty-fourth General Synod, members of the Executive Council, and members of the Boards of Directors for the three Covenanted Ministries.

Moderator Taylor announced that the Twenty-third General Synod received the report of the General Synod Nominating Committee.

14. NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR FOR BOARDS
Following review of Standing Rules 22 and 23 for the Twenty-third General Synod, the Moderator entertained nominations from the floor. There were no nominations and nominations were declared closed.
15. INTRODUCTION OF NEW BUSINESS
The Moderator explained the procedure for introducing new business, referring to the Standing Rules (12.C.2.a; 12.C.3.a.3). This would be the only time in the agenda to introduce New Business, and New Business should be introduced by title only. Items introduced would be referred to the Business Committee for recommendation. The recommendations would be brought to the floor on either Saturday morning or Saturday evening for action.

Two items of New Business were offered:
Resolution: “Support for Research on Embryonic Stem Cells,” offered by Olivia White (SC), John Leung, (SW), and Deborah Streeter (CA NV, N);
Resolution: “End the Death of Migrants on the United States/Mexico Border by Offering Water in Christ’s Name,” offered by Mark Clark (SW), Norma De Saegher (CA NV, S) and Janelle Luna (CA NV, S).

16. INTRODUCTION OF HONORED GUESTS
The Moderator called on Mr. Anderson, who moved that previous Officers, Instrumentality Executives, and Moderators be designated as Honored Guests and granted voice without vote.

01-GS-6 VOTED: The Twenty-third General Synod grants voice without vote to the following Honored Guests:

Former Officers:
The Rev. Paul and Mary Sherry
The Rev. Carol A. Joyce and Neal Leubke
Mr. Charles and Catherine Lockyear

Past Moderators:
Ms. Charlotte Pennfield Gosselink
The Rev. John H. Krueger
Mr. Kenneth Stewart

Instrumentality Executives:
The Rev. Thomas and Sandy Dipko
The Rev. Earl and Patricia Miller
Ms. Marilyn Breitling
The Rev. Yvonne Delk
The Rev. Mary Sue Gast
The Rev. Larry Schultz
The Rev. Scott and Jean Libbey

Mr. Anderson returned to the lectern and invited the Rev. José Malayang and Mr. Dale Bishop to lead the delegates in a Memorial Tribute to the Rev. David Stowe, former Executive Vice President of United Church Board for World Ministries, and the Rev. C. Shelby Rooks, former Executive Vice President of United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, who have died since the last General Synod.

17. RECOGNITION OF JOAN F. BRANNICK
Moderator Taylor called on Mr. Robert M. Goodchild, Chair of the Pension Boards—United Church of Christ, who introduced Mrs. Joan F. Brannick, the Executive Vice President of the Pension Boards. Mr. Goodchild spoke of the years of committed service Mrs. Brannick had given to the Pension Boards, thanked her for her dedication, and wished her well in her retirement.

18. RECOGNITION OF NEW AND RETIRING CONFERENCE MINISTERS
Ms. Taylor invited the Rev. Russell Mitman Jr., Pennsylvania Southeast Conference Minister, to introduce those Conference Ministers who had begun their ministry as Conference Ministers since the last General Synod and to recognize those Conference Ministers who had retired since that time.

Conference Ministers who began office since last General Synod:
The Rev. Geoffrey Black, New York Conference
The Rev. Jane Heckles, Southern California Nevada Conference
The Rev. Luis Rosario, Puerto Rico Conference
The Rev. Luís Rosario, Puerto Rico Conference
The Rev. Eugene Ross, Central Pacific Conference

Those elected to begin as Conference Ministers in the fall:
The Rev. Nancy Taylor, Massachusetts Conference Minister
The Rev. David Moyer, Wisconsin Conference Minister
The Rev. Kenneth Leischner, Rocky Mountain Conference Minister

Interim Conference Ministers:
The Rev. Christine Boardman, Washington-No. Idaho Conference
The Rev. Erwin Bode, Massachusetts Conference
The Rev. Herman Haller, Southern Conference
The Rev. Harold Henning, Penn Northeast Conference
The Rev. Kenneth Leischner, Penn West Conference
The Rev. Jack Seville, Wisconsin Conference
The Rev. Lynn Simcox, Rocky Mountain Conference
The Rev. Peter Young, Northern Plains Conference
In the Minnesota Conference, the Rev. Karen Smith Sellers serves as Acting Conference Minister, and on September 1, the Rev. Susan Henderson would become Interim Conference Minister in New Hampshire Conference.

Retired Conference Ministers:
- The Rev. Fred Trost, Wisconsin Conference
- The Rev. Paul Westcoat, Penn West Conference

19. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RECESS
The Moderator recognized Ms. Edith Guffey, Administrator of the General Synod, for announcements.

Moderator Taylor declared the first plenary of the Twenty-third General Synod to be complete and in recess at 5:05 p.m.

SATURDAY MORNING, JULY 14, 2001
Joint Plenary Session

1. MODERATORS WELCOME
Ms. Nancy Taylor, Moderator of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ, and Mr. Paul Rivera, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), introduced worship leader, the Rev. Kay Bessler Northcutt; Bible Storytellers, Mr. Richard Ward and Ms. Jane Anne Ferguson; and the Rev. Rita Nakashima Brock and Mr. Dale Bishop, who would be reflecting on the United Church of Christ and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) partnership.

2. BIBLE STORYTELLING/PRAYER
Ms. Northcutt recalled a story of baptism and then invited delegates and visitors to share with one another their own baptismal or confirmandial experiences. Following the discussion, Bible storytellers Richard Ward and Jane Ferguson told dramatic Bible stories on the theme of “Can God Spread a Table in the Wilderness?” Ms. Northcutt then led the plenary in silent prayer.

3. PARTNERSHIP VIDEO
Dale Bishop and Rita Nakashima Brock set the context of the partnership between the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ and spoke of some of the expectations that each had for the meeting. They then introduced a video that highlighted some of the ways the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ live out mission together.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS
Ms. Edith Guffey and Mr. Don Manworren made some comparisons between a United Church of Christ General Synod and a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) General Assembly. Mr. Manworren then turned the platform back to Mr. Rivera.

5. INTRODUCTION OF MODERATORS AND PARLIAMENTARIANS
Moderator Rivera introduced the Vice Moderators of the General Assembly, the Rev. Lanny Lawler and Ms. Minnie Smith, and the Parliamentarian, Dan Woods. Mr. Rivera reviewed what was before the Assembly and called for adoption of the Order of Business.

Moderator Taylor introduced the United Church of Christ Assistant Moderators, Ms. Linda Jaramillo and Mr. Dick Harter, and the two Parliamentarians, the Rev. Mal Bertram and Ms. Annie Wynn Neal.

6. RECOGNITION OF ECUMENICAL AND INTERNATIONAL GUESTS AND OF THE PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST IN THE PHILIPPINES
Ms. Taylor called Ms. Jaramillo to introduce the Rev. John Thomas, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. Mr. Thomas introduced the Ecumenical Delegates attending the General Synod/Assembly.

Ecumenical Delegates:
- Bishop H. George Anderson, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- Bishop Elmer Bolocon, United Church of Christ in the Philippines
- Bishop V. Devasahayam, Church of South India
- The Rev. Stanley Hastey, Executive Director, Alliance of Baptists
- Ms. Dorothy Barnard, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
- The Rev. Lewis Kain, Reformed Church in America
- The Rev. McKinley Young, Bishop of the Tenth District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church

The Rev. Pat Tucker Spier, Co-Executive of the Common Global Ministries Board, presented the overseas guests.

Overseas Guests
From Africa:
The Rev. M. C. Kuchera, President, United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe
Ms. Betty Kuchera, Women’s Coordinator, United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe
Mr. Thulani Ndlazi, Ministerial Candidate, United Congregational Church of Southern Africa
Mr. Romeo Tshuma, HIV/AIDS Counselor, Gays, and Lesbians of Zimbabwe
Ms. Anthea Wagner, Children’s Advocate, South Africa
Mr. Roger Mwamba, Medical Coordinator, Disciples of Christ in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

From Southern Asia:
The Right Rev. V. Devasahayam, Bishop in Chennai, Church of South India
The Rev. Richard A. Siwu, Vice President for Mission and Ecumenism, The Christian Evangelical Church in Minahasa, Indonesia
Ms. Grace Sumarau, Tomohon, Principal, Christian Vocational High School, Evangelical Church of Minahasa Synod, Minahasa Indonesia

From Latin America and the Caribbean:
The Rev. Wilfredo Estrada, Coalicion Ecumenica PRO-Vieques
Bishop Ulises Munoz, Pentecostal Church of Chile (IPC)
Mr. Ricardo Equivia, Mennonites in Colombia

From East Asia and the Pacific:
The Rev. Joe Steven Berdin, United Church of Christ in the Philippines
The Rev. Dr. Huang Po Ho, Director of Research Center, Presbyterian Church in Taiwan

From the Middle East:
The Rev. Dr. Riad Jarjour, General Secretary, Middle East Council of Churches, Syria

From Europe:
The Rev. Tobias Schlingensieben, Evangelical Church of the Union, Germany
Bishop V. Devasahayam, from the Church of South India, spoke on behalf of the ecumenical and overseas guests.

In recognition of the one hundredth anniversary of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, Ms. Tucker Spier gave a brief history of the partnership between the Common Global Ministries and the United Church of Christ in the Philippines. She welcomed Bishop Bolocon, General Secretary of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, and the Rev. Joe Steven Berdin, also of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, and invited Bishop Bolocon to address the Synod.
The Bishop spoke on the theme “One Faith: A Shared History, a Common Future.”

7. COVENANTED MINISTRIES/GENERAL UNITS REPORTS

Mr. Rivera pointed out that both the Assembly and the Synod request their respective national ministries, the Covenanted Ministries and the General Units, to give reports of their work. Ms. Jaramillo explained that this would be done jointly so that the Synod and Assembly would be able to see the work of both churches.

A series of presentations were then made, each highlighted by a video, on the work of the church. The first presentation was made by the Rev. Richard Hamm, General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the Rev. Bill Edwards, Associate General Minister and Vice President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the Rev. John Thomas, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, and Ms. Edith Guffey, Associate General Minister of the United Church of Christ. At the conclusion, Mr. Thomas and Mr. Hamm presented a symbolic wreath as a symbol of how both denominations can weave their faith together.

The second presentation was by the Rev. Pablo Jimenez, National Hispanic Pastor of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and Mr. Don Hart, Executive Vice President of the United Church Foundation. At the conclusion, they jointly presented an hourglass, symbolic of the time the two denominations spend together.

The next segment was given by the Rev. José Malayang, Executive Minister of the Local Church Ministries, and Ms. Christy Newton, Co-Chair of the Common Global Ministries Board. They presented a set of chains that were a gift from the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa in recognition of the solidarity of the two churches with the South African church in the struggle against apartheid and to symbolize the need to work for peace with justice.

The final report was by Ms. Joan F. Brannick, Executive Vice President of the Pension Boards—United Church of Christ, and Mr. Raymond Brown, Interim President of the Division of Homeland Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). They presented a plate and chalice, recognizing whose table it is that draws us together.

The presentation ended with Mr. Thomas introducing the members of the Collegium of the United Church of Christ and the executives of The Pension Boards and the United Church Foundation and with Mr. Hamm introducing the General Unit Presidents of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). There was a period for questions from the floor following the presentations. Questions raised concern about the dichotomy between rich and poor, the ecological crisis, the religious diversity of America, the future of the Ecumenical Partnership between the United Church of
Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the date for the next common gathering, and AIDS.

8. NEW CHURCH ESTABLISHMENT

Ms. Jaramillo introduced a report on congregations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ that have come into existence or been renewed over the past two years.

The Disciples of Christ Moderators presented the report, “New Congregation Establishment,” acknowledging fifty-three new congregations that have come to life since the last Assembly.

The Rev. David Schoen, Minister and Team Leader for Evangelism Ministry, Local Church Ministries, recognized over one hundred new and renewed United Church of Christ congregations in the past several years. The report was concluded with a video and a parade celebrating the many new United Church of Christ and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) faith communities.

9. RESOLUTION “CALLING ON THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST TO JOIN THE DECADE TO OVERCOME VIOLENCE”

Ms. Jaramillo explained that the Committee of Reference Report would be offered in parts. This would allow opportunity to vote on the resolution, “Decade to Overcome Violence,” at the same time as our partners, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Ms. Jaramillo then called on Ms. Beth Anastasia (CAC), Chair of the Committee of Reference.

Ms. Anastasia moved that the resolution “Calling on the United Church of Christ to Join the Decade to Overcome Violence” be referred directly to a plenary of the General Synod.

01-GS-07 VOTED: The Twenty-third General Synod refers the resolution “Calling on the United Church of Christ to Join the Decade to Overcome Violence” directly to a plenary of the General Synod.

Ms. Anastasia then moved adoption of the resolution and called on the Rev. Henry Simmons, Chair of the Board of Directors of Justice and Witness Ministries, who spoke to the resolution.

The Disciples held discussion and adopted a similar item, “Calling on the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada to Join the Decade to Overcome Violence.”

Ms. Jaramillo moderated discussion by the United Church of Christ delegates on the resolution and called for the vote.

01-GS-08 VOTED: The Twenty-third General Synod adopts the resolution, “Calling on the United Church of Christ to Join the Decade to Overcome Violence.”

Calling on the United Church of Christ to Join the Decade to Overcome Violence

WHEREAS the Psalmist wrote, “Seek peace and pursue it” (Psalm 34:14), and the prophet Isaiah wrote “the wolf and the lamb shall feed together and the lion shall eat straw like cattle, they shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain” (Isaiah 65:25), and Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount, “blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called children of God” (Matthew 5:9);

WHEREAS we recall with thanksgiving the history of saints and martyrs of the church who gave their lives as witnesses for God against the powers of violence and, at the same time, we confess the role that the church has too often played in adding to the violence and injustice of the world;

WHEREAS the world’s Nobel Peace laureates have appealed for a “Decade for a Culture of Nonviolence” and a “Year of Education for Nonviolence,” with special emphasis on children and youth;

WHEREAS the United Nations has designated the years 2001–2010 as the Decade for Nonviolence and a Culture of Peace for the Children of the World;

WHEREAS the World Council of Churches, meeting at its Eighth Assembly in Harare, called upon its member churches to observe a Decade to Overcome Violence from 2001 to 2010, calling on its member churches to provide a clear witness to peace, reconciliation, and nonviolence, grounded in justice;

WHEREAS the U.S. Conference of the World Council of Churches began this observance with a Lenten fast from violence in 2001, requesting member churches to pray the prayer of St. Francis of Assisi, “Lord make me an instrument of thy peace”;

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ has designated itself as a “Just Peace” church and many local churches have designated themselves as “Just Peace” churches;

WHEREAS violence is fracturing our world, destroying our culture, and takes many forms—from the violence of war and genocide, to the violence due to the use of land mines and the proliferation of small arms, to the systemic violence of poverty and racism, to violence in the home against women and children, to the violence done to the whole of God’s creation, to the violence of hate crimes and police brutality, to the violence of gangs, to the violence which erupts in U.S. schools and is found in our churches;
WHEREAS, as Christians, we are called upon to recognize that our cultural addiction to violence is a spiritual challenge that calls us to prophetic witness;

WHEREAS we have heard the call to nonviolence as an active alternative to violence from modern prophets such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and as a way of living out Jesus’ teachings and bearing witness to God’s promise of peace with justice; and

WHEREAS the culture of violence surrounds us all and is found in our entertainment, our sports, our worldview, and is embedded in our history;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod calls on every local church to act to overcome violence in our world and especially in its own community by being a witness for peace with justice and reconciliation, through Bible study and theological reflection, and through dialogue and prayerful consideration of how it can be an active participant in the Decade to Overcome Violence;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod calls on the Conferences and Associations of the United Church of Christ to affirm the commitment of the United Church of Christ to support a Decade to Overcome Violence and to discern how they might become active participants in the Decade;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod calls on the seminaries of the United Church of Christ and the historically related seminaries to include education on issues of violence in the curriculum for the preparation of pastors and in continuing education programs;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod calls on Justice and Witness Ministries to coordinate work in the national setting of the church around overcoming violence and to provide leadership training on nonviolence and conflict resolution and violence prevention education, to work with youth and young adults in programs to end violence, to advocate for an end to land mines and the proliferation of small arms, and to work to overcome the institutional and systemic violence of racism and poverty;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod calls on Wider Church Ministries to explore appropriate ways for the United Church of Christ to participate in the United Nations Decade for Nonviolence and a Culture of Peace and to develop necessary resources for such participation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod calls on the Office of General Ministries to coordinate the promotion and information for the United Church of Christ’s participation in the World Council of Churches’ Decade to Overcome Violence; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod calls on Local Church Ministries to produce the appropriate bulletin inserts and curriculum resources for local churches to participate in the Decade to Overcome Violence.

Funding for this action will be made in accordance with the overall mandates at the affected agencies and the funds available.

10. SPEAK OUT!
Mr. Rivera announced that there would be ten minutes for Speak Out!, with five speakers from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and five from the United Church of Christ alternating.

The five speakers from the United Church of Christ were:
The Rev. J. David Menchhofer (SE), who spoke about the Allen Retreat Center
Ms. Noelle Damico, (JWM), who spoke on the work of the Justice and Peace Action Network
The Rev. David Gaewski (ME) and two youth delegates from the Maine Conference, who spoke about the National Youth Event in 2004 in Maine
Mr. David Inglis (RM), who spoke on restorative justice
Mr. Earl Menchhofer (IL), who spoke on the need for evangelism

Speakers from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) spoke on Palestinian peace, the Disciples Men’s International Day of Pancakes, homosexuality, a call to hug the missionaries who serve the church, and ministry for older adults.

II. RESPONSE TO VOTE
Mr. Hamm and Ms. Bernice Powell Jackson introduced Mr. David Satcher, Surgeon General of the United States and a member of the National City Christian Church in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Satcher brought greetings from Washington, D.C., and the Office of the Surgeon General. Acknowledging the earlier vote on the Decade to Overcome Violence and identifying violence as a serious health problem in the United States, he called attention to the Youth Violence Prevention Report, which addresses the issue. While acknowledging the effect of youth violence on the United States, he encouraged the church not to lose hope in their struggle against violence.
12. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RECESS
Mr. Rivera called on Don Manworren and Edith Guffey to make announcements and asked Ms. Bessler Northcutt to offer the benediction. At 12:00 noon, Moderator Rivera declared the Second Plenary of the Twenty-third General Synod ended.

SATURDAY EVENING, JULY 14, 2001

1. CALL TO ORDER
Assistant Moderator Dick Harter called to order the third plenary of the Twenty-third General Synod at 7:30 p.m.

2. SPEAK OUT!
Mr. Harter welcomed the Speak Out! participants.

Mr. Jack Silas (CA NV, S) spoke about migration into the Southwest and California and the work of a coalition including the church to provide water at Mexican border crossings.

Ms. Gretchen Eick (KO) reminded delegates of the 1973 General Synod request to send people to support United Farm Workers and the ninety-five delegates who traveled to the Coachella Valley, and she wondered why the Business Committee referred the resolution regarding water at the Mexican border directly to Justice and Witness Ministries rather than allowing the delegates to address it.

Mr. Stan Duncan (MASS) reminded the Synod that the country of Colombia is experiencing a civil war funded by our tax dollars and noted that the Justice and Witness Ministry table had more information regarding ways to help heal and save lives in this crisis.

Ms. Gail Wells (OHIO) pointed out that July 14 was John Corbin's twenty-first birthday and asked the delegates to sing “Happy Birthday” to anyone who might be celebrating a birthday during the time of General Synod.

Mr. Larkin Rossiter (SW) shared his concern regarding the Committee of Reference report referring the resolution calling for water at the Mexican border crossings to an implementing body and asked the delegates to give serious consideration to this issue, even though it would not be something to be voted on.

Ms. Barbara Kershner Daniel (PSE) spoke about the wonderful theological school in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, which was searching for a president, and asked any interested parties to contact her.

Mr. F. Russell Baker (MICH) reported that on March 13, sixteen clergy had signed a declaration regarding Maurice Carter, believing that he is experiencing a miscarriage of justice reminiscent of the South during the 1960s. He urged delegates to go to the Michigan Conference table to learn more.

Mr. Kent Meyer (MICH) thanked the Committee on Reference for referring the resolution from Michigan Conference regarding Maurice Carter to Justice and Witness Ministries, but he urged delegates to read and become educated about the subject.

Mr. Harter thanked the participants in the Speak Out!

3. COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE REPORT
Mr. Harter reminded delegates of the new business that was brought to the body during the first plenary on Friday and considered by the Committee of Reference for recommendation. He called on Ms. Anastasia, Chair of the Committee of Reference, to present the report.

Ms. Anastasia directed the delegates’ attention to the report of the Executive Council, detailing their recommendations regarding new business. She then moved the adoption of the Committee of Reference Report.

01-GS-09 VOTED: The Twenty-third General Synod adopts the report of the Committee of Reference.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE
The Twenty-third General Synod assigns the following items of business as indicated:

RESOLUTIONS REFERRED DIRECTLY TO A PLENYARY OF GENERAL SYNOD:
Anti-Semitism
Calling on the United Church of Christ to Join the Decade to Overcome Violence

RESOLUTIONS REFERRED TO A COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL SYNOD:
Committee 1:
Recommendation to the Churches for a New Relationship—Churches Uniting in Christ, Consultation On Church Union
A Statement on Convergence in Matters of Theology and Practice between the Alliance of Baptists and The United Church of Christ

Committee 2:
Resolution on Conflict Diamonds in Sierra Leone
Reparations on Slavery
Epidemic of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome on the Continent of Africa

Committee 3:
Opposition to the SIECUS Declaration # 1
Opposition to the SIECUS Declaration # 2
Committee 4: Health Effects and Impacts of Tobacco on Children, Teenagers, and Their Families

Juvenile Justice

Committee 5: Reaffirmation of the Trinitarian Basis for our Ecumenism

Committee 6: Preservation of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arickara Languages
Pastoral Compensation
Pension Supplementation for Native American Ordained and Licensed Ministers

Committee 7: Declare Jubilee: A Call for a New Day in the Spirit of the United Church of Christ
News Media Guidelines
Mutual Respect within the Faith Community

Committee 8: Access to Excellent Public Schools: A Child’s Civil Rights in the 21st Century

Committee 9: Program for Essential Conference Ministry Bylaws
Recommended Changes to the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ

Committee 10: Calling on the United Church of Christ to Initiate a Jubilee for Justice for Rural America

Committee 11: A Pronouncement on a United Church of Christ Ministry and Witness with Micronesians
A Proposal for Action on a United Church of Christ Ministry and Witness with Micronesians
Calling for a More Just, Humane Direction for Economic Globalization

Committee 12: Colombia
To End the Presence of the U.S. Navy in the Municipality of Vieques, Puerto Rico

Committee 13: Resolution in Support of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers Boycott of Taco Bell

Committee 14: Redistributing Tax Rebates to the Poor

Committee 15: Support for Research on Embryonic Stem Cells

RESOLUTIONS REFERRED TO IMPLEMENTING BODIES:
Resolution: Justice and Peace in Asia and the Pacific
Resolution: In Support of a New Trial for Maurice Carter
Resolution: To End the Death of Migrants on the United States/Mexico Border by Offering Water in Christ’s Name
Resolution: A Christian Response to Developments in Genetic Technology
Resolution: Call for Staffing to Address Ecojustice Concerns
Resolution: Restorative Justice Principles for Reform of the Criminal Justice System

4. AWARDS PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING
Mr. Harter called on Ms. Bernice Powell Jackson, Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries. Ms. Jackson named people being recognized during the Twenty-third General Synod for their ministry of witness to the gospel in church in society. Awards of Affirmation were conferred on the following leaders in six areas of the world.

In Africa: The Physicians of the Disciples of Christ Community in the Democratic Republic of Congo

In East Asia and the Pacific: The Rev. Jude Samson, President of the Micronesian Council of the United Church of Christ—Congregational

In Europe: the Rev. Rolf Wischnath, General Superintendent of the Cottbus Region of the Evangelical Church in Berlin-Bradenburg

In the Middle East: The Rev. Dr. Riad Jarjour, General Secretary of the Middle East Council of Churches, and Ms. Rosangela Jarjour, General Secretary of the Fellowship of the Middle East Evangelical Churches;

In Latin America and the Caribbean: Ecumenical Coalition for Vieques (Coalicion Ecumenica Pro-Vieques)

In Southern Asia: The Right Rev. V. Devasahayam, Bishop of Madras Diocese, Church of South India.

Local Church Ministries presented the following awards:

The Worship and Education Ministry Team of Local Church Ministries honored the five following distinguished educators:
Ms. Odessa Walker Hooker, Cincinnati, Ohio
Ms. M. Ann Molsberry, Grinnell, Iowa
Mr. James Perry, Dennis, Massachusetts
Ms. Jan Standlea, Lake Oswego, Oregon
Ms. Renia Strychaz, Tiburon, California
Mr. Malayang spoke, sharing some of his family history and the reasons Local Church Ministries has a special meaning for him. He included his hopes and vision for the future of the Ministry.

6. INTRODUCTION OF CANDIDATE FOR GENERAL MINISTER AND PRESIDENT
Mr. Harter called upon Mr. Kekapa Lee (HI), Vice Chair of the Executive Council, who introduced the Rev. John H. Thomas, candidate for General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. Mr. Lee noted the diversity of gifts that made Mr. Thomas the Search Committee’s choice for President.

Mr. Thomas spoke on the theme of the Twenty-third General Synod, “Gather at the Welcome Table,” how the United Church of Christ embodies the spirit of the Welcome Table, and what needs to be done to continue fulfilling that vocation.

7. REPORT: CONTINUING NEED FOR THE PACIFIC ISLANDER ASIAN AMERICAN IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE
Mr. Harter introduced Mr. John Lardin (MICH), Chair of the Evaluation and Planning Committee of the Executive Council, to introduce two actions. Mr. Lardin explained the history of the Pacific Islander/Asian American Implementation Team and the Hispanic Ministries Implementation Team and the need for Synod action to continue their work. He drew attention to the reports on pages 125 and 128 of the Program, Worship, and Business Book. He then moved that the Twenty-third General Synod receive the report of the Pacific Islander Asian American Ministries Implementation Team and continue its existence for the 2001–2003 biennium.

01-GS-10 VOTED: The Twenty-third General Synod receives the report of the Pacific Islander/Asian American Ministries Implementation Team and continues its existence for the 2001–2003 biennium.

8. REPORT: CONTINUING NEED FOR THE HISPANIC MINISTRIES IMPLEMENTATION TEAM
Mr. Lardin moved that the Twenty-third General Synod receive the report of the Hispanic Ministries Implementation Team and continue its existence for the 2001–2003 biennium.

01-GS-11 VOTED: The Twenty-third General Synod receives the report of the Hispanic Ministries Implementation Team and continues its existence for the 2001–2003 biennium.

9. RESOLUTION: ANTI-SEMITISM
Mr. Harter drew the attention of the delegates to the resolution “Anti-Semitism,” on page 137 of the Program, Worship, and Business Book. He then called on
Mr. Brian Lapis (CONN), member of the Executive Council, who moved the adoption of the resolution and spoke to it.

Jack Kemp (MN) rose to voice two concerns. He suggested that the scope of anti-Semitism was not just Jewish people, but Arabs as well. He wished the United Church of Christ to stand as firmly with Arab sisters and brothers as it does with those who are Jewish. His second point was that anti-Semitism was often a fallacious charge used to oppose a given action, and all need to be alert to which charges are legitimate and which are not.

01-GS-12 VOTED: The Twenty-third General Synod adopts the resolution “Anti-Semitism.”

Anti-Semitism

WHEREAS, when Jesus was asked what was the greatest commandment, he responded quoting Hebrew scripture, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets” (Matthew 22:37–40);

WHEREAS, the shootings that occurred at the Hebrew day care center in California shocked the nation and should be a wake up call for all Christians to denounce anti-Semitism;

WHEREAS anti-Semitism has been deeply embedded in Christian tradition;

WHEREAS anti-Semitism violates Christ’s call to love our neighbors as ourselves;

WHEREAS Judaism is the foundation of our faith; and

WHEREAS the delegates to the Sixteenth General Synod (1987) of the United Church of Christ stated, “We in the United Church of Christ acknowledge that the Christian Church has, throughout much of its history, denied God’s continuing covenantal relationship with the Jewish people expressed in the faith of Judaism. This denial often has led to outright rejection of the Jewish people and theologically and humanly intolerable violence”;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the delegates to the Twenty-third General Synod of the United Church of Christ, do confess the sin of anti-Semitism and renounce it, knowing that Jews are children of God to be loved as we love ourselves in the way that Christ has commanded us;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we invite the Justice and Witness Ministries of the United Church of Christ to utilize all rapid response networks to notify Conferences that will in turn notify congregations when there is a need to take action against anti-Semitism in a crisis;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge our national representatives to speak out against anti-Semitism in all appropriate circumstances;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage all churches of the United Church of Christ to build relationships of mutual respect and friendship with their nearby synagogues through interfaith exchanges such as church school, youth and adult education programs, cooperative service projects, and social interactions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United Church of Christ actively seek and develop relationships of mutual respect and understanding with our Jewish brothers and sisters in all settings of the church.

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

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Harter called on Ms. Guffey for the evening announcements. Ms. Guffey reported that the offering received during Friday evening’s worship service totaled $12,352.72 and was designated for Harmony, an organization in Kansas City working to improve race relations and increase appreciation for cultural diversity and eliminate intolerance.

11. RECESS

Mr. Harter declared the third plenary of the Twenty-third General Synod to be completed and the Synod to be in recess until 8:30 a.m. on Sunday morning.

MONDAY MORNING, JULY 16, 2001

Joint Plenary Session

1. INTRODUCTION AND BIBLE STORY-TELLING

Ms. Bessler Northcutt began the plenary by leading the delegates in song; Richard Ward and Jane Anne Ferguson then told a dramatic Bible story.

2. PRAYER

Ms. Bessler Northcutt lit the Christ candle and led the delegates in an opening prayer.
3. CALL TO ORDER
Moderators Dick Harter and Paul Rivera jointly called the fourth plenary of the Twenty Third General Synod and the General Assembly to order at 8:52 a.m.

4. SPEAK OUT!
Moderator Rivera informed delegates that Speak Out! would again include five United Church of Christ speakers and five Disciples of Christ speakers.

The five speakers from the United Church of Christ were:

Ms. Betty Jane Bailey (CAC) spoke on the crisis in the Middle East and the ethnic cleansing in Palestine;

Ms. Kimberly Mather (CONN), speaking on behalf of the Conference Youth, expressed strong opposition to those who might consider AIDS a punishment for “the sin of homosexuality”;

The Rev. Mary J. Fairley (IL) reported on the action of the Board of Directors of the Illinois Conference, declaring the Rev. Sterling Cary the first African American Conference Minister Emeritus;

Ms. Mary Alice Butkofsky (PC) spoke in support of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) and the Decade to End Poverty; and

Mr. William Ingraham (MICH), who talked about efforts to raise money to support lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender issues by pledging money based on the time that the Outside Protestors are there.

Speakers from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) addressed the Middle East, Disciples Men, the Young Adult Fellowship, and homosexuality.

5. RECOMMENDATION TO THE CHURCHES FOR A NEW RELATIONSHIP—CHURCHES UNITING IN CHRIST

Moderators Dick Harter and Paul Rivera reviewed the procedures for conducting business in a joint session of the General Synod/Assembly. There would be separate discussion times for the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and, following the discussions, separate votes would be taken.

Mr. Harter identified the next item of business as “Churches Uniting in Christ.” He gave an overview of the issue and called on John Thomas and Dick Hamm to introduce Ecumenical Guests who supported the adoption of this resolution:

The Rev. Kevin Calloway, African Methodist Episcopal Church

Ms. Frieda Moss, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

The Rev. Ross Stuckey, Episcopal Church (U.S.A.)

The Rev. Gerald Brown, International Council of Community Churches

Ms. Dorothy Barnard, Presbyterian Church

Bishop Fritz Mutti, United Methodist Church

Before proceeding to the discussion of the resolution, Moderator Harter thanked the Committee Process Facilitators and asked all of the Committee Chairs to rise and be recognized. Mr. Harter then called on the Rev. Dennis Frische-Mouri (IK), Chair of Committee One, to present the recommended action on behalf of Committee One. The Rev. Frische-Mouri moved that the Twenty-third General Synod adopt the “Recommendation to the Churches for a New Relationship—Churches Uniting in Christ.” The Rev. Frische-Mouri spoke to the motion and there was additional discussion from the floor.

In accordance with the procedures agreed to, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) General Assembly then held extensive discussion on this item.

Following discussion, Mr. Harter called for the General Synod vote.

01-GS-13 VOTED: The Twenty-third General Synod adopts the resolution, “Recommendation to the Churches for a New Partnership—Churches Uniting in Christ, Consultation on Church Union.”

Recommendation to the Churches for a New Relationship—Churches Uniting in Christ

The Executive Committee of the Consultation on Church Union (COCU), acting on the mandate given by the Consultation’s Eighteenth Plenary (St. Louis, January, 1999)

(1) commends to the member churches the following proposal for a new relationship among them to be called Churches Uniting in Christ, and

(2) requests that they approve this proposal in their appropriate decision-making bodies in order that they together may inaugurate Churches Uniting in Christ through public declaration and liturgical celebration during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in the year 2002.

This proposal for inauguration of Churches Uniting in Christ is excerpted from the full report of the Eighteenth Plenary. It is also dependent on, and intended to be fully consistent with, COCU’s other foundational documents: COCU Consensus (CC) and Churches in Covenant Communion (CCC). These texts, in turn, are deeply indebted to work done in other parts of the ecumenical movement, especially the World Council of Churches’ text Baptism, Eucharist, and Ministry.
Entering into Churches Uniting in Christ means
that the participating churches will express their
relationship with one another through the follow-
ing visible marks:

1. Mutual recognition of each other as authentic
expressions of the one church of Jesus Christ. Spe-
cifically this means that the participating churches
will publicly recognize the following in one an-
other:
faith in one God who through Word and in the Spirit
creates, redeems, and sanctifies;
commitment to Jesus Christ as Savior and as the
incarnate and risen Lord;
faithfulness to the Holy Scripture, which testifies
to tradition and to which tradition testifies
as containing all things necessary for our
salvation, as well as being the rule and ultimate
standard of faith;
commitment to faithful participation in the two
sacraments ordained by Jesus Christ, Baptism
and the Lord’s Supper;
commitment to the evangelical and prophetic
mission of God and to God’s reign of justice
and peace; and
grateful acceptance of the ministry that the Holy
Spirit has manifestly given to the churches.

2. Mutual recognition of members in one Baptism.
This also implies a recognition of the ministry that
all believers share in the common priesthood and
from which God calls those members who will be
ordained.

3. Mutual recognition that each affirms the apos-
tolic faith of Scripture and tradition that is ex-
pressed in the Apostles’ and Nicene Creeds and
that each seeks to give witness to the apostolic faith
in its life and mission.

4. Provision for celebration of the Eucharist to-
gether with intentional regularity. This recognizes
that the sacrament is at the heart of the church’s
life. Shared celebration of the Lord’s Supper is a
sign of unity in Christ. As Christians gather in all
their diversity at one table of the Lord, they give
evidence that their communion is with Christ and
that they are in communion with one another in
Christ. When Christians are unable or unwilling to
partake together of the one Eucharist, they witness
against themselves and give a visible demonstra-
tion of the brokenness of Christ’s body and the
human community.

5. Engagement together in Christ’s mission on a
regular and intentional basis, especially a shared
mission to combat racism. The church engages in
Christ’s mission through worship, proclamation of
the gospel, evangelism, education, and action that
embodies God’s justice, peace, and love. The com-
mitment made by the members of Churches

Uniting in Christ includes all of these so that hearts
and minds may be changed. The participating churches
will also recognize, however, a particular and emphatic
call to “erase racism” by challenging the system of
white privilege that has so distorted life in this society
and in the churches themselves. Indeed, this call is a
hallmark of the new relationship.

6. Intentional commitment to promote unity with
wholeness and to oppose all marginalization and ex-
clusion in church and society based on such things as
race, age, gender, forms of disability, sexual orienta-
tion, and class.

7. Appropriate structures of accountability and appro-
priate means for consultation and decision-making.
While some provision must be made for effecting the
marks of the new relationship and for holding the
churches mutually accountable to the commitments
they have made, the structures developed for these
purposes should be flexible and adapted to local cir-
cumstances. Apart from ongoing structures, the mem-
ers of Churches Uniting in Christ may want to as-
semble from time to time in order to consider pressing
issues and to bear witness together on matters of com-
mon concern.

8. An ongoing process of theological dialogue. Such
dialogue will specifically attempt:
to clarify theological issues identified by the members
of Churches Uniting in Christ in order to strengthen
their shared witness to the apostolic faith.
to deepen the participating churches’ understanding of
racism in order to make an even more compelling case
against it.
to provide a foundation for the mutual recognition and
reconciliation of ordained ministry by the members of
Churches Uniting in Christ by the year 2007.

As we undertake the dialogue regarding ministerial
recognition and reconciliation, the following par-
graphs will serve as the framework and starting point
for our discussions.

Mutual recognition of ordained ministry means “that
the participating churches will publicly recognize that
one another’s ordained ministries are given by God as
instruments of God’s grace, that these ministries seek
to be faithful to Jesus Christ, and that these ministries
possess not only the inward call of the Spirit by also
Christ’s commission through this body, the church” (St.
Louis Plenary Report, para. 43). Mutual reconciliation,
following and building on such recognition, means ad-
ditionally that “the ordained ministries of each
coeuening church become one ministry of Jesus
Christ in relation to all” such that “the ministry of one
may function, whenever invited, as a ministry to all”
(CCC, ch. 4, para. 21).
Chapter 7 of the *COCU Consensus* makes clear the intention of COCU members to adopt the three-fold ministry of bishop, presbyter, and deacon as part of the process of ministerial reconciliation “in ways appropriate to the differing traditions of the uniting churches and to future needs of their common mission” (*CC*, ch. 7, para. 44). The text notes that the churches may use different nomenclature (para. 42), but the three-fold ordering must be sufficiently evident that the ministries of the churches are fully interchange-able.

The *COCU Consensus and Churches in Covenant Communion* also affirm that a reconciled ministry shall include bishops who “stand in continuity with the historic ministry of bishops as that ministry has been maintained through the ages” (*CC*, ch. 7, para. 48). This historic succession is understood as one sign of the apostolicity the churches confess. The churches thus seek to be reconciled in such a way that the wider Christian world can understand their relationship to be what is commonly known as full communion.

The documents insist that “uniformity among several church polities is not essential to covenant communion” (*CCC*, ch. 4, para. 19) and that it is the responsibility of each of the participating churches “to determine how its present categories of ordained ministry relate to the historic categories [of the three-fold ministry] set forth in the *COCO Consensus*, chapter 7” (para. 28). The purpose of dialogue would be to explore how much diversity is possible consistent with the framework for reconciliation set forth in the COCU documents. This is particularly important since, in an earlier phase of the consultation, it was anticipated that the “ordering of ministry outlined in chapter 7 will first begin to appear concretely in the councils of oversight [later called covenanting councils]” ("Note on the Function of Chapter 7," first edition). Since covenanting councils *per se* are not envisioned as part of Churches Uniting in Christ, this will obviously need to be reconsidered.

The reconciled ministry we seek should also:

- embody a commitment to justice, peace, and the integrity of creation;
- be a demonstrable renunciation of the sins of racism and sexism;
- provide adequate means for preaching and teaching the gospel, presiding over the liturgical and sacramental life of the congregations, and assembling, equipping, and watching over the community (*CC*, ch. 7, para. 31);
- recognize and value the ministry of laypersons, including the full equality of both women and men;
- enable the church to carry out its mission of service and witness.

The relationship expressed through the visible marks of Churches Uniting in Christ will not be structural consolidation but a unity in diversity among churches that, though many, will understand themselves to be one community in Christ. From the moment of inauguration, the life of these churches will be visibly intertwined as never before. From the moment of inauguration, their relationship, with God’s help, will not be one of friendly coexistence and consultation but of binding community that actively embodies the love of Christ that ties them to one another.

The commitment of the churches to these marks of relationship and to the ongoing process of theological dialogue will enable the churches to inaugurate Churches Uniting in Christ while yet confessing that their work is not completed. The Executive Committee is confident that, guided by the Holy Spirit, the churches will be able to respond to God’s call

- to witness more credibly to the apostolic faith
- to oppose the sin of racism
- to move toward the day when their ordained ministries are mutually recognized and reconciled in a relationship of full communion

It is the strong hope of the Executive Committee that the reconciliation of ministry can be accomplished by the time of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2007.

**THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CONSULTATION ON CHURCH UNION, OCTOBER 19, 1999**

Moderator Rivera called for the General Assembly vote and the Business Item was adopted.

Dick Hamm and John Thomas led the Synod/Assembly in prayer.

**6. RESOLUTION: REPARATIONS FOR SLAVERY**

Moderator Rivera and Ms. Smith introduced the next action, “Reparations for Slavery,” which would be considered by both churches.

The Disciples of Christ General Assembly held extensive discussion on the issue.

Moderator Harter called on David Cavanaugh (CA NV, S), Chair of Committee Two, to present the recommended action of the Committee. Mr. Cavanaugh noted that the Committee had made amendments to the resolution; these were contained in the red packet distributed to delegates. He then moved that the Twenty-third General Synod adopt the Resolution “A Call for Study on Reparations for Slavery” as amended. Mr. Cavanaugh called on the Rev. Ann Marie Coleman...
(ILL) to speak to the resolution and the Committee’s amendments to it.

Mr. Harter called for discussion. There was extensive discussion on both the Committee’s amendments and the resolution as a whole. Harlette Washington (ILL) pointed out that reparations had been given to other groups. Margie Galabrun (NH) said that the pain of slavery could never be reduced to mere monetary terms.

Following the General Synod discussion, Mr. Rivera called for the General Assembly vote and the Business Item was adopted.

Moderator Harter called for the General Synod vote.

01-GS-14 VOTED with abstentions: The Twenty-Third General Synod adopts the Resolution “A Call for Study on Reparations for Slavery.”

CALL FOR STUDY ON REPARATIONS FOR SLAVERY

WHEREAS the institution of slavery is internationally recognized as a crime for which there is no statute of limitations;

WHEREAS uncompensated labor was demanded from enslaved Africans and their descendants for more than two centuries on United States soil;

WHEREAS reparations is a process to remember, repair, restore, make amends for wrongs, reconcile, and can never be singularly reducible to monetary terms; is an historical reckoning involving acknowledgment that an offense against humanity was committed and the victims have not received justice; speaks to a corporate or individual process to confess to a wrong, culpability, and accountability for offenses that led to beneficial gains or harm to others, and is to seek the pathway to justice from confession to reconciliation, inclusive of apology and moral, economic, political, and educational structural adjustments;

WHEREAS the principle that reparation is the appropriate remedy whenever a government unjustly abrogates the rights of a domestic group or foreign people whose rights such government is obligated to protect or uphold has been internationally recognized including:

- German reparations to the State of Israel for the Holocaust
- United States reparations to Japanese Americans for illegal internment
- Reparations by the United Kingdom to the Maori people of New Zealand;

WHEREAS this violation of the human rights of Africans has left a long legacy of subordination, segregation, and discrimination against descendants of slaves. In January 2000, the Commission to Study Reparations Proposals for African Americans Act (H.R. 40) bill was presented in the United States House of Representatives by Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich.), which states, “To acknowledge the fundamental injustice, cruelty, brutality, and inhumanity of slavery in the United States and in the thirteen American colonies between 1619 and 1865 and to establish a commission to examine the institution of slavery, subsequently de jure and de facto racial and economic discrimination against African Americans and the impact of those forces on living African Americans, to make recommendations to the Congress on appropriate remedies and other purposes”;

WHEREAS in the century and a half since the abolition of slavery, the United States government has never acknowledged or taken responsibility for its role in the enslavement of Africans and the promotion of White Supremacy;

WHEREAS the experience and legacy of enslavement, segregation, and discrimination continues to limit the life chances and opportunities of African Americans;

WHEREAS Christians must not only continue to call for the release of the captives (Leviticus 25:52), but also to proclaim liberty, bring good tidings to the afflicted, and build up the ancient ruins (Isaiah 61); and

WHEREAS General Synods of the United Church of Christ have voted ten resolutions, statements, and pronouncements on racism since 1963;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-third 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 study and education on issues dealing with reparations for slavery;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Justice and Witness Ministries of the United Church of Christ be called on to develop a study paper with scriptural basis to equip churches and individual Christians so that they might urge local schools to adopt history texts that tell the truth about the history of slavery, encourage them to communicate to elected government representatives their faith-based reasons for support of a formal apology for slavery, and create a congressional commission for the study of reparations issues; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod calls on its General Minister and President, John Thomas, and other United Church of Christ leaders to be in dialogue with leaders of other Christian denominations, other faith groups, and leaders and activists in the secular community to raise this issue at every opportunity.
Funding for this action will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

7. RESOLUTION: EPIDEMIC OF AIDS ON THE CONTINENT OF AFRICA

Mr. Rivera introduced the next item, “AIDS in Africa.” The General Assembly discussed the issue.

Mr. Harter again called on the chair of Committee Two, David Cavanaugh. Mr. Cavanaugh moved the resolution, “The Epidemic of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome on the Continent of Africa,” and asked that the Rev. Pamela June Anderson be granted voice to speak to the motion. Following Ms. Anderson’s remarks, there was additional discussion from the floor.

Business returned to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and Mr. Rivera called for the General Assembly vote on the issue, AIDS in Africa; the item was adopted.

Moderator Harter called for the General Synod vote.


THE EPIDEMIC OF ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME ON THE CONTINENT OF AFRICA

WHEREAS at the dawn of a new century and a new millennium, we, as a faith community, believing in Jesus Christ, are called on to follow his example and to heed his teachings, to tend his lambs, to hear and respond to the loud wails and the stifled cries of those who are suffering in our world community;

WHEREAS at the dawn of this new century and new millennium, the dread disease of HIV/AIDS continues to plague the world community, bringing particular suffering and devastation to our brothers and sisters on the great continent of Africa;

WHEREAS in the last year, over two-and-one-half million persons in Africa have died from HIV/AIDS and related diseases, with every indication that those numbers will increase in the coming years;

WHEREAS the suffering of women and children in African countries has been particularly acute, spawning the prospect of millions of orphaned children in one generation, many faced with the task of raising themselves;

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ has declared its passionate concern and support for all who are victims of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and the opportunistic diseases it enables; and

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ is empowered to convey its concerns and impact on the communities of local churches, as well as in the nation and in the global community, and is empowered to impact on public policy;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod:

Calls on the United Church of Christ, through its pastoral leadership and through its Covenanted Ministries, particularly Wider Church Ministries and Local Church Ministries, to continue the commitment made in the Proposal for Action regarding the Pronouncement for Health and Wholeness in the Midst of a Pandemic, which was adopted by the Sixteenth General Synod, to wit, to provide information to local churches, Associations, and Conferences on how the United Church of Christ is responding to the AIDS crisis in Africa and how these groups may further assist this response;

Calls on the United Church of Christ, through the Office of the General Minister and President and through Justice and Witness Ministries and Wider Church Ministries, to convey to the President of the United States, the Congress of the United States, and other appropriate governmental bodies, the concern of its constituencies about the AIDS crisis in Africa, and its advocacy and support of any executive or legislative action aimed at reducing substantially, or forgiving altogether, the economic debt to the United States of America of those African nations whose economies are overburdened by same, and where the effects of the AIDS crisis are particularly severe;

Calls on the United Church of Christ, through the Office of the General Minister and President and through the Justice and Witness Ministry and Wider Church Ministries, to convey to the appropriate executive or legislative bodies its advocacy and support of the implementation of international trade regulations that help to reduce the prohibitively high cost and increase the availability of HIV/AIDS treatment drugs in areas where they are desperately needed.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod, in adopting this resolution of concern, calls on the United Church of Christ to engage in meaningful and prayerful dialogue with our partner churches on the African continent and to actively seek to raise the consciousness, awareness, and concern of the global religious community in its efforts to ease the pain and suffering caused by this terrible affliction to the human family.
Funding for this action will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

8. RESOLUTION: CONFLICT DIAMONDS IN SIERRA LEONE

Mr. Harter informed the delegates that the next item of business would be the last common action of the Synod/Assembly during the Plenary. He called on Mr. Cavanaugh to present the committee’s next resolution, “Conflict Diamonds in Sierra Leone.” Mr. Cavanaugh moved on behalf of Committee Two that the Twenty-third General Synod adopt the resolution, “Conflict Diamonds in Sierra Leone.” He then yielded his time to the Rev. Dan Hoffman, Area Executive for Africa of the Common Global Ministries, to speak to the resolution.

Moderators Rivera and Smith then facilitated the discussion of this issue by the General Assembly.

Following that discussion, Mr. Harter called for the General Synod vote.

01-GS-16 VOTED with abstentions: The Twenty-third General Synod adopts the resolution, “Conflict Diamonds in Sierra Leone.”

RESOLUTION ON CONFLICT DIAMONDS IN SIERRA LEONE

WHEREAS, the human tragedy of war in Sierra Leone cries out for an effective international response;

WHEREAS, the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebel movement in Sierra Leone, whose brutality included cutting off the hands, feet, and legs of children, has been sustained by the sale of diamonds from mining areas under its control;

WHEREAS, the income derived from diamonds correlates directly with the RUF’s access to arms to continue its brutal war;

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ traces its connection with Sierra Leone to the successful efforts of 19th century New England Congregationalists in returning the crew of the Amistad to that country; and

WHEREAS, both the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) continue to support development and relief efforts of Sierra Leonean Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing and Week of Compassion grants;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod of the United Church of Christ meeting in Kansas City in July 2001, Calls on the United States government to fully support the United Nations embargo on “conflict diamonds”;

Urges that the international diamond industry move forward to establish a system for certifying legitimate diamonds and for prohibiting the buying, cutting, and exporting of diamonds originating in rebel-controlled Sierra Leone;

Appeals to the U.S. Congress to legislate a ban on the importation of diamonds from any country that does not have “rough controls” in place to prevent the marketing of conflict diamonds;

Calls on our congregations to reflect on this critical issue and advocates to secure the end of conflict diamonds as a means of sustaining the war in Sierra Leone, not only through advocacy with the U.S. Government and Congress, but also by communicating their concerns to jewelers in their communities, toward the end that dealers in diamonds, who have previously opposed these steps, may be persuaded to support efforts to end the trade in conflict diamonds;

Urges all parties to proceed toward a system of identification and certification that provides no hindrance to the sale of legitimate diamonds, such a hindrance harming the economies of such nations as Botswana, Namibia, and South Africa;

Requests Common Global Ministries of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to provide educational and advocacy resources to interested United Church individuals and entities on conflict diamonds in Africa; and

Requests the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ to communicate this resolution to the U.S. President, Secretary of State, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, U.S. Trade Representative, the General Secretary of the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa, and the General Secretaries of the All Africa Conference of Churches and the councils of churches in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, and the United States.

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

Mr. Rivera called for the General Assembly vote and the Business Item was adopted. Mr. Rivera reported that this ended the business that had been submitted to both the General Synod and Assembly and that business would continue alternating between the business of the two churches.

Mr. Rivera and Ms. Smith facilitated the General Assembly business item entitled “Justice and Reconciliation to Comfort Women”; the item was adopted.
9. RESOLUTION: STATEMENT ON CONVERGENCE WITH THE ALLIANCE OF BAPTISTS

Moderator Taylor called on the chair of Committee One, the Rev. Dennis L. Frische-Mouri, to present the recommended action of the committee. Mr. Frische-Mouri thanked members of the committee for their work, briefly described the work of the committee and moved the adoption of the resolution, “A Statement on Convergence in Matters of Theology and Practice between the Alliance of Baptists and the United Church of Christ.” Mr. Frische-Mouri spoke briefly to the resolution.

Ms. Taylor called for further discussion. Following discussion, John Gage (CONN) offered an amendment: “Be it further resolved that the Twenty-third General Synod of the United Church of Christ requests that the persons on the dialogue team representing the United Church of Christ engage in conversation with persons from the Alliance of Baptist to explore how an intentional ecumenical relationship will allow both bodies to grow in their shared commitments to becoming multicultural, multiracial, open and affirming, accessible to all, just peace communities of faith and....”

After further discussion on the amendment, Ms. Taylor called for the vote and the amendment was defeated. There being no further discussion, Moderator Taylor called for the vote on the main motion.

01-GS-17 VOTED: The Twenty-third General Synod adopts the resolution, “A Statement on Convergence in Matters of Theology and Practice between the Alliance of Baptists and the United Church of Christ.”

A STATEMENT ON CONVERGENCE IN MATTERS OF THEOLOGY AND PRACTICE BETWEEN THE ALLIANCE OF BAPTISTS AND THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WHEREAS the Alliance of Baptists has been a faithful witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS nearly six years of informal and formal dialogue between leaders of the Alliance and the United Church of Christ continues to reveal significant shared theological convictions, potential opportunities for mutual support in common mission, and a shared conviction of God’s leading into a closer walk together;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod of the United Church of Christ affirms the desire to develop an intentional ecumenical relationship with the Alliance of Baptists which expresses our common vocation, mutual friendship, and developing collaboration through a covenant to be prepared for formal affirmation in 2003;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Minister and President be requested to name members of the United Church of Christ to the dialogue team;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Minister and President be requested to invite the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to name up to two observers to this dialogue team; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the United Church of Christ expresses its profound gratitude to God and to the Alliance of Baptists for the promise of such a rich relationship, to the end that together we may continue to seek the realization of Jesus’ prayer, “that they may all be one.”

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

Ms. Taylor granted the Rev. Stanley Hastey, Co-convenor of the Alliance of Baptist—United Church of Christ Dialogue Team, voice to speak on the resolution which had just been passed. Mr. Hastey expressed thanks to Paul Sherry, John Thomas, and Lydia Veliko for their work on the relationship. He also thanked Richard Hamm and Robert Welch, who represented the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the dialogue. Finally, he offered assurance that the concern of the proposed amendment would be given attention. There was a standing ovation.

Mr. Rivera and Ms. Smith moderated discussion and voting on the next business item of the General Assembly, “Farm Workers, Social Justice, and the Church,” which was adopted.

10. RESOLUTION: CALLING UPON THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST TO INITIATE JUBILEE FOR JUSTICE FOR THE RURAL UNITED STATES

Ms. Taylor called on Mr. Sol Codillo (MOMS), Chair of Committee Ten, to present the resolution “Calling Upon the United Church of Christ to Initiate a Jubilee for Justice for the Rural United States.” Mr. Codillo briefly described the work of the Committee and noted minor changes in the resolution for the purpose of clarity on lines 11, 18, 25 and 32 and also added the final paragraph, which he read to the delegates. Then, on behalf of Committee Ten, he moved adoption of the resolution as amended in Committee. There being no discussion, Moderator Taylor called for the vote.
01-GS-18 VOTED with abstentions: The Twenty-third General Synod adopts the resolution, “Calling Upon the Church of Christ to Initiate a Jubilee for Justice for the Rural United States,” as amended in Committee.

**CALLING UPON THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST TO INITIATE A JUBILEE FOR JUSTICE FOR THE RURAL UNITED STATES**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Twenty-third General Synod of the United Church of Christ requests the Justice and Witness Ministries to develop a coordinated program of education and action to initiate a Jubilee of Justice for the Rural United States, implementing and updating past General Synod pronouncements concerning the rural United States and agriculture, and focusing attention on the immediacy of action required to prevent the further collapse of family farm agriculture and the communities which serve agriculture; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that such a Jubilee for Rural Justice should give priority and emphasis to enable the United Church of Christ, its churches, and its members, to engage in ministries of advocacy for social and economic justice on behalf of family farmers and rural communities, to oppose industrialized and corporatized structures of agriculture, and to work toward a vision of renewed prosperity and opportunity for a sustainable and stabilized system of family farm agriculture and rural society.

This should not only assist churches and communities to help the victims of these injustices to pick up the pieces of their lives, but it also must address the root causes by helping to create a just agricultural system that appropriately compensates family farm producers of our daily food, while ensuring proper distribution of food resources to meet basic human need and enhancing the long-term stewardship of our land, water, and natural resources for the future.

It should seek replacement of the 1996 farm law with legislation that provides a meaningful economic safety net based on the cost of production returns targeted to benefit small and mid-size family farmers, reestablishes viable systems of domestic and international food reserves, assures compliance with civil rights and effectively addresses past discrimination, and establishes a 21st-century homesteading program that will enable new, young farm families to enter into the profession of family farming and ranching.

It should seek the development of farm price-support structures that not only encourage and provide meaningful assistance to family farmers and ranchers to establish and carry out sound conservation practices, but also it should reward these operators for improved stewardship of land, water, and other natural resources. At the same time, it should discourage the speculative development or conversion of land resources that cannot environmentally sustain such development.

It should seek to address the historical dislocation of Native American farmers from their lands and the public discrimination that resulted in the dramatic loss in the number of African American family farmers and the acreage that they operated. Priority should be given by the U. S. Department of Agriculture to create new avenues of opportunity to help these and other minorities to regain their agricultural legacy as family farmers.

It should seek further discussion and rapid implementation of the recommendations developed by the National Commission on Small Farms. These recommendations, which are consistent with past pronouncements and resolutions of the General Synod, should serve as a central base upon which to rebuild the family farm structure and a sustainable agricultural production and rural development system.

It should provide resources by which consumers can participate with producers in rebuilding local and regional food systems both at home and abroad. It should seek to build commonality between the struggles of American family farmers and food producers in developing nations. It should enlighten consumers and help clarify the injustices of existing food systems that encourage industrialized food production systems designed primarily for export to nations and societies that currently struggle to produce adequate nutrition for their populations. It should help both producers and consumers to understand the forces of globalization and how those forces can best be governed through democratic processes.

The Justice and Witness Ministries shall be responsible to develop the strategy and program for this resolution, which may include mobilizing the existing Rural Task Force. They shall submit ongoing reports to Twenty-fourth General Synod and thereafter as appropriate.

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

**11. RESOLUTION: REDISTRIBUTING TAX Rebates to the Poor**

Ms. Taylor called on Mr. Timothy Clark (RM), Chair of Committee Fourteen, to present the resolution: “Redistributing Tax Rebates to the Poor.” Mr. Clark noted one typographical error in the revised version contained in the red packet and then moved that the resolution be
adopted as presented. He then spoke briefly to the resolution. After brief discussion, Ms. Taylor called for the vote.

The Rev. Kwame Osei Reed (CAC) offered a Friendly Amendment: “That Sunday, September 9, 2001, be designated as a National Day of Consecration in which members are given the opportunity to contribute their rebate checks to their churches for distribution to Neighbors in Need, church agencies, local human services agencies or their local church crisis funds in order to address both the cause and effects of poverty.” Prior to consideration of the amendment, Ms. Taylor called for the order of the day.

12. THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION
Ms. Taylor welcomed back Ms. Nakashima Brock and Mr. Bishop for theological reflection.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS
Ms. Taylor announced that General Synod business would be continued at the 2:00 p.m. plenary and that the work on Committee Fourteen would continue at that time. Ms. Taylor then called on Dan Manworren and Edith Guffey for announcements. It was reported that the Sunday evening offering for AIDS in Africa had amounted to $34,976.

Following announcements, Ms. Bessler Northcutt offered the benediction in song.

MONDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 16, 2001

1. CALL TO ORDER
Ms. Taylor called the fifth plenary of the Twenty-third General Synod to order at 2:10 p.m. She called on General Minister and President, John Thomas, to share a concern about the Rev. Nancy Palmer, an Illinois Conference delegate, who had been unable to attend General Synod because she was severely ill. Word had just been received that her family had removed life support and she had passed away in the morning. Also of concern was a nominee for Assistant Moderator for the next General Synod, Christine Smith, who was unable to attend the Twenty-third General Synod due to the illness of her mother. Word was received that Ms. Smith’s mother had died in the morning. Mr. Thomas led those assembled in prayer.

Ms. Taylor noted that in reporting the resolution, “Calling Upon the United Church of Christ to Initiate a Jubilee for Justice for the Rural United States,” one of the changes had not been read to the delegates before they voted. The change was on page 162, of the Program, Worship and Business Book, after line 46 of the right-hand column. Moderator Taylor read the change: the final paragraph of the Be It Further Resolved should read:

“The Justice and Witness Ministries shall be responsible to develop the strategy and program for this resolution, which may include mobilizing the existing Rural Task Force. They shall submit ongoing reports to the Twenty-fourth General Synod and thereafter as appropriate.”

2. RESOLUTION: REDISTRIBUTING TAX REBATES TO THE POOR
Ms. Taylor called on Kwame Reed (CAC), who had proposed an amendment to the resolution on redistribution of tax rebates. Mr. Reed noted that he was a voice-without-vote participant and therefore was not eligible to make amendments. He apologized for having done so and asked that Mr. Charles Wildman (CAC), be allowed to move the amendment that was proposed before the lunch break. Mr. Wildman moved the amendment that “Sunday, September 9, 2001, be designated as a National Day of Consecration in which members are given the opportunity to contribute their rebate checks to their churches for distribution to Neighbors in Need, Church Agencies, local human services agencies, or their local church crisis funds in order to address both the cause and effects of poverty,” and spoke to the issue.

During the discussion, it was pointed out that some people might not have received their rebate checks by that time. It was further noted that churches had already been notified to work toward this goal and the money spent to publicize the new date would be foolishly spent. Ann Hurd (NY), member of the Committee, suggested that funding for advertisement would be better spent on the poor. The amendment failed. Ms. Taylor then called for a vote on the resolution.

01-GS-19 VOTED: The Twenty-third General Synod adopts the resolution “Redistributing Tax Rebates to the Poor.”

REDISTRIBUTING TAX REBATES TO THE POOR

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ has sought to bring peace through justice extended to all human beings;

WHEREAS the Scriptures call people of faith to be caring for the poor as God has done: “For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of Lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing” (Deuteronomy 10:17–18 NRSV);

WHEREAS the Scriptures call people of faith to share in one’s harvest with the poor: “When you reap your harvest in your field and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it; it shall be left for the alien, the orphan, and the widow, so that the Lord your God may bless you in all your undertakings. When you beat
WHEREAS the Scriptures record Jesus’ teaching of the righteous feeding the hungry, giving the thirsty a drink, clothing the naked, caring for the sick and visiting the imprisoned: “‘For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me” (Matthew 25:35–40 NRSV);

WHEREAS the delegates to the Twenty-third General Synod of the United Church of Christ are concerned about the forthcoming distribution of $300 and $600 tax rebate checks to relatively wealthy individuals and families, while up to 30 million of the poorest working Americans less endowed with material benefits than we will receive nothing;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod reaffirms its commitment to the poor by taking urgent action in this timely situation, acknowledging that the ever widening gap between rich and poor must be lessened in ways great and small that allow justice to help build peace;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod affirms the June 2001 letter from the Collegium of Officers (attached) inviting all who can live without the tax rebate to share all or a portion of it with others;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod invites the membership of the United Church of Christ and others who are able to join the Collegium of Officers in encouraging those who can live without this tax rebate to share all or a portion of it with others in one of the following ways:

- Neighbors in Need—meeting the needs of the poor in the United States,
- One Great Hour of Sharing—meeting the needs of the poor overseas,
- The Christmas Fund—meeting the financial needs of retired clergy and their spouses,
- A local or Conference mission program of your choosing, or
- Increased weekly or monthly giving to the church to support the United Church of Christ’s year-round, ongoing work on behalf of the poor through Our Church’s Wider Mission; and

ATTACHMENT to Resolution:

Because of the tax cut recently adopted by Congress, each of us in the collegium will receive a tax rebate check within the next few months. As each of us considered how we might use that rebate, we were moved and challenged by a letter from Rev. Allen Myrick, a retired UCC missionary to Africa. In his letter, Allen says:

*I hope that you will call to mind the growing gap between the rich and the poor; between those who are financially secure and those who are not—a gap which exists in this country and around the world. Recall that the number of homeless people in America is growing; and that the supply of affordable housing falls far short of the demand. Remember that many children are hungry and many families lack health insurance.*

*Think, too, beyond the borders of the U.S., of the millions of refugees from oppression, wars and natural disasters. Consider that in many Third World countries the unemployment rate exceeds 50%, and that AIDS and malaria are killing multitudes in Africa. Recall how our partner churches overseas struggle with very limited resources to be faithful.*

*Some of us need that tax rebate. But in a world of such need, how many of us truly need it? How many of us can justify keeping it for ourselves?*

The members of the collegium have decided that we will give all or a portion of our tax-cut refunds to special offerings or programs that support poor and working class people. After conversations with leaders across the church, we ask you to join us by encouraging UCC members who can live without this tax rebate to share it with others by giving through their local churches in one of the following ways:

- Neighbors in Need—meeting the needs of the poor in the United States,
- One Great Hour of Sharing—meeting the needs of the poor overseas,
- The Christmas Fund—meeting the financial needs of retired clergy and their spouses,
- A local or Conference mission program of your choosing,
- Increased weekly or monthly giving to the church to support the United Church of Christ’s year-
round, ongoing work on behalf of the poor through Our Church’s Wider Mission.

We have created a bulletin or newsletter insert that you can copy to help you communicate this to your members. If you have questions concerning this initiative, please contact the Rev. Kathryn Matthews Huey, Minister for Public Life, Stewardship and Church Finances at <hueyk@ucc.org> or by phone at 216.736.3855.

“To believe is to care. To care is to do” remains one of the defining mottos of the United Church of Christ. In the words of Allen Myrick, “Our gifts can make a difference, and be one way in which we tell the story of Jesus and his love.”

John H. Thomas, General Minister and President
Edith A. Guffey, Associate General Minister
Dale L. Bishop, Executive Minister, Wider Church Ministries
José A. Malayang, Executive Minister, Local Church Ministries
Bernice Powell Jackson, Executive Minister, Justice and Witness Ministries

3. ELECTIONS

Assistant Moderator Jaramillo explained that the elections would be held in three stages, the first of which was the election for the offices of Executive Minister for Local Church Ministries and General Minister and President. She called on Mr. James Henry (OHIO), a member of the Board of Directors of Local Church Ministries. Mr. Henry moved that the Rev. José A. Malayang 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.

01-GS-20 VOTED: The Twenty-third General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls by election the Rev. José A. Malayang to a four-year term as Executive Minister of Local Church Ministries and an Officer of the United Church of Christ.

Ms. Jaramillo called upon Mr. Kekapa Lee, Vice Chairperson of the Executive Council. Mr. Lee moved that the Rev. John H. Thomas be called by election by the General Synod of the United Church of Christ to a four-year term as the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ.

01-GS-21 VOTED: The Twenty-third General Synod elects the Rev. John H. Thomas to a four-year term as the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ.

The Assistant Moderator then called on Mr. Arthur Clyde, who led the delegation in a song of celebration. Ms. Jaramillo recognized Mr. Anderson to continue the election process. Mr. Anderson explained that the second stage of elections was for uncontested positions. He moved that the Twenty-third General Synod elect the nominees for the Moderators, the nominees for the Executive Council, and the nominees for the Boards of Directors for Justice and Witness Ministries, Local Church Ministries, and Wider Church Ministries.

01-GS-22 VOTED: The Twenty-third General Synod elects the nominees for the Moderators, the nominees for the Executive Council, and the nominees for the Boards of Directors for Justice and Witness Ministries, Local Church Ministries, and Wider Church Ministries.

Mr. Anderson asked the Tellers to distribute the ballots for the contested positions for the General Synod Nominating Committee. He noted that under the category of Clergy, Susan Henderson was an African American, not a European American as indicated in the materials. He explained that there were two sets of names on the ballots, those to be elected from Conferences and those to be elected from Groups. He clarified for the delegates the number of people from each group to be elected. At the completion of the voting, Ms. Jaramillo stated that the results would be announced on Tuesday morning during the plenary.

4. SPEAK OUT!

Ms. Jaramillo called upon the participants for the Speak Out!

Ms. Candi Cain Borgman (PSE) and Ms. Betsy Woodward (CA NV, N) spoke about the Association of United Church Educators.

Mr. J. Matt Deal (PW) and Ms. Megan Hoelle (CPC), from the Student Ecumenical Partnership team, who identified themselves as advocates for the partnership between the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ, encouraged the leadership of the churches to be more aware of youth.

Ms. Billie Louise Bentzen (MA), from the United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries honored Ms. Virginia Kreyer for her resolution which, twenty-five years ago, resulted in the organization now known as United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries.

Mr. Kent Meyer (MI) expressed concern over the discussions regarding homosexuality and the lack of love and understanding on both sides.

Mr. Bill Nelson (MA) announced that Massachusetts would have three Associate Conference Minister positions open, and invited all interested clergy to explore this career opportunity.

Ms. Tanen McCaw and Ms. Megan Fuller (CONN) spoke of their beloved conference center at Silver Lake.
Ms. Carolyn Edwards (NE) said that the Nebraska Conference challenged the United Church of Christ to select honored laymen as well as honored laywomen.

Ms. Barbara VanAusdall (IS) reported that members of the Illinois South Conference were at home preparing for a trip to Ecuador. She noted that members of both the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ would go together to work on a mission project.

Ms. Jenna Meisner (OHIO) spoke in favor of open and affirming. Noting that the issue had torn the church apart, she asked how people with differing opinions could be brought together.

Mr. Jack Lynes (NH) announced that the New Hampshire Conference would be celebrating its 200th anniversary on October 28. He asked for thoughts and prayers on that date.

5. RESOLUTION: OPPOSITION TO THE SIECUS DECLARATION—RESOLUTION 1

Ms. Jaramillo called on Ms. Suzi Townsley (CONN), Chair for Committee Three, to present the work of the Committee. Ms. Townsley spoke of the thoughtful consideration that the Committee gave to the resolution and the discussion which led to the Committee’s recommendation. She then moved the resolution, “Opposition to the SIECUS Declaration—Resolution 1,” and indicated the Committee’s recommendation that the resolution be defeated. She spoke to the recommendation, sharing words written by members of the Committee.

Russell Mitman (PSE) spoke in favor of the Committee’s call for defeat of the resolution, sharing his respect for the Committee. He yearned for a time of better discernment. Mr. Lewis (CA.SY) expressed opposition to the SIECUS declaration noting that Mr. Thomas did not speak for the Calvin Synod. Carol Wassmuth (IA) said that many lesbians had come to her, as a nurse, seeking help in dealing with the strain created by the way society treats lesbians and gays. She shared her distress with people who consider the love between two people of the same sex perverted. David Runnion-Bareford, Biblical Witness Fellowship, said that sinners are in need of being saved; fellowship with Jesus gives us fellowship with one another. Jeffrey Brace (PNE) opposed the resolution, but expressed concern about the conflict and hate. He asked for greater understanding so that those in the church might be a community of God and witnesses to God’s love.

The resolution, “Opposition to the SIECUS Declaration—Resolution 1,” was defeated.

6. RESOLUTION: OPPOSITION TO THE SIECUS DECLARATION—RESOLUTION 2

Ms. Townsley, on behalf of Committee Three, moved the resolution, “Opposition to the SIECUS Declaration—Resolution 2,” and reported the Committee’s recommendation that the resolution be defeated. She spoke to the resolution, again sharing the words of the Committee members.

The resolution, “Opposition to the SIECUS Declaration—Resolution 2,” was defeated.

7. RESOLUTION: COLOMBIA

Ms. Jaramillo reviewed the Standing Rules regarding how far in advance of a vote delegates were required to have relevant materials. She reported a request from the Connecticut Conference, the proposer of the resolution on Colombia, that the issue be addressed while a guest from Colombia, who could speak to the resolution, would be in Kansas City. Ms. Jaramillo asked the delegates if they felt prepared to discuss the resolution immediately. Following the delegates affirmation, Ms. Jaramillo called upon Ms. Petra Malleis-Sternberg (SW), Chair of Committee Twelve, to present the resolution “Colombia.”

Ms. Malleis-Sternberg drew attention to the resolution in materials that had been distributed to the delegates (yellow packet). She noted the thoughtful consideration the Committee gave the resolution and moved the adoption of the Resolution “Colombia.” She then yielded her time to Mr. Ricardo Equivia, who spoke to the resolution through his interpreter, sharing personal information regarding the serious conflict in Colombia and the need for the presence of others there to facilitate peace.

Others rose to address the resolution. One speaker had two children adopted from Colombia. She had seen the effects on people who have been displaced, the hunger, sick children, and environmental damage. She had gone to Congress to tell the story. Charles Wildman (CAC) had been hosted by Ricardo Equivia in Colombia and saw the true poverty outside the populous cities. Mr. Chen (CONN) had been in a South Korean city in 1980 and experienced a military operation where almost 300 people were killed and over 2000 were injured, including children. Julio Filomeno (RI) had many Colombian members in his church. Over two million people had been displaced, many had immigrated to Rhode Island.

01-GS-23 VOTED with abstentions: The Twenty-third General Synod adopts the resolution, “Colombia.”

COLOMBIA

WHEREAS the Psalmist proclaims, “How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity” (Psalm 133:1);
WHEREAS Jesus in the Beatitudes taught his disciples “Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called children of God” (Matthew 5:9);

WHEREAS Paul reminds us of our unity in Christ when he wrote, “For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ” (1 Corinthians 12:12);

WHEREAS on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2), peoples of every nation on earth were present and the Holy Spirit filled them and they had understanding of one another, testifying to God’s power;

WHEREAS we are entrusted with the “ministry of reconciliation” (2 Corinthians 5:18) and are called to be “ambassadors for Christ” (2 Corinthians 5:20);

WHEREAS the Connecticut Conference and the Central Atlantic Conference at their respective Annual Meetings in 2000 have passed a resolution of partnership between their Conferences and the Mennonite Church in Colombia;

WHEREAS Justice and Witness Ministries, and the Latin American/Caribbean Office of the Common Global Ministries worked in collaboration with Witness for Peace to send a diverse, interfaith delegation to Colombia from March 11–13, 2001, which included 20 clergy and lay representatives of the United Church of Christ and the Disciples of Christ from around the country;

WHEREAS these delegates were told repeatedly by leaders from all sectors of Colombian society, including religious peace and justice workers, human rights advocates, representatives from indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities, campesinos, and members of the business sector, that the violence in their country is not about a “war on drugs,” but rather is the result of economic chaos due to widespread poverty and gross inequities in the distribution of resources;

WHEREAS despite increasing efforts of the U.S. over the past five years to reduce coca productions in Latin America primarily through policies of interdiction and aerial fumigation of crops, which is causing widespread damage to the environment in the Colombian rain forest and massive destruction of edible crops as well, overall coca production has continued to increase over this period due to a consistently increasing demand in the United States; and

WHEREAS international human rights organizations, as well as the judicial branch of the Colombian government, have documented that 80% of the human rights violations and military violence being perpetrated in Colombia at this time is due to the paramilitary forces, which often act as an extension of and in cooperation with the Colombian military forces, who are being trained by the United States and who are the primary recipients of aid through Plan Colombia. (Plan Colombia is the U.S. government sponsored aid package in the amount of 1.3 billion dollars in fiscal year 2001, of which 80% of this package is for military purposes.)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates to the Twenty-third General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges Wider Church Ministries and the Common Global Ministries Board to develop a presence in Colombia in cooperation with ecumenical partners to work for peace, justice, and human rights; and develop a brief study guide for congregations on the subject;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United Church of Christ calls upon the National Council of Churches and Church World Service to support efforts for peace-making in Colombia and assistance to the displaced;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a national United Church of Christ delegation, in cooperation with ecumenical partners, visit Colombia before the Twenty-fourth General Synod and report to the church their findings;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United Church of Christ, in keeping with recommendations from the United Church of Christ/Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Witness for Peace March delegation to Colombia, calls on the members of its churches to urge U.S. policymakers to stop all further military aid to Colombia, and support a negotiated peace process which includes all sectors; to reallocate funds previously spent on military aid to be used strictly for humanitarian purposes; to stop any further aerial fumigation of coca crops and instead support manual eradication, along with subsidizing alternate crop production; and to provide adequate funding for drug consumption prevention and treatment on request for addicts in the U.S. to reduce overall demand;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United Church of Christ actively respond and allocate resources to help alleviate the needs of the displaced families and individuals in Colombia; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the United Church of Christ urges Justice and Witness Ministries to advocate for humanitarian aid for the displaced in Colombia; for peacemaking and human rights as our nation’s priority in relation to Colombia; and for focused attention on the relationship between drug usage in the United States and the suffering of innocent people in Colombia; and further urges Justice and Witness Ministries to advocate for drug education and increased drug treatment centers in the United States.
Funding for this action will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

8. RESOLUTION: JUVENILE JUSTICE
Ms. Jaramillo recognized Ms. Amarilys Ramos (PR), the chair of Committee Four, to present the resolution, “Juvenile Justice.” Ms. Ramos noted changes to the original document which could be found in the distributed materials (blue packet). She moved adoption of the resolution as amended in committee.

Douglas Anderson (MASS) proposed an amendment to change “sexual preference” to “sexual orientation.”

01-GS-24 VOTED: The Twenty-third General Synod amends the resolution, “Juvenile Justice,” to replace the words “sexual preference” with the words “sexual orientation.”

Sheila Whetzel (CAC) moved to amend the resolution by changing the word “orientation” to “identity.”

01-GS-25 VOTED with abstentions: The Twenty-third General Synod amends the resolution, “Juvenile Justice,” to replace the word “orientation” with the word “identity.”

William Abraham (MICH) questioned the vote due to confusion regarding what sign delegates were to use when voting. The Assistant Moderator asked the delegates to vote again and the decision to amend was affirmed.

Ms. Jaramillo called for the vote on the amended resolution.

01-GS-26 VOTED with abstentions: The Twenty-third General Synod adopts the resolution “Juvenile Justice.”

JUVENILE JUSTICE
WHEREAS children and youth are important members of our families, churches, and communities;

WHEREAS Jesus reached out to the children with love and compassion when his disciples sought to send them away;

WHEREAS Jesus demonstrated through his ministry the importance of caring for offenders and indicated our responsibility to do the same when he said, “I was sick and you cared for me; I was in prison and you visited me”;

WHEREAS the criminal justice system in the United States has adopted a more punitive approach to juvenile offenders in the last two decades;

WHEREAS in the last six years, forty-three states have instituted legislation facilitating the transfer of juveniles to adult court, and all fifty states have laws allowing juveniles to be tried as adults;

WHEREAS the juvenile justice system of the United States arrests, detains, charges, convicts, and penalizes young people in an unfair manner, resulting in disproportionate numbers of poor youth and youth of color represented in the juvenile justice system;

WHEREAS the justice system, including the juvenile justice system, has become a repository for people with mental illnesses and behavioral disorders, but provides little, if any, care appropriate to treating and healing such illnesses, especially among young people;

WHEREAS youthful detention has been shown to teach skill in crime and deceit rather than educating people in high standards for life and ethical solutions to address life problems, and youth engaged in the criminal justice system often become enmeshed in such systems to their detriment, foregoing education and opportunity to the detriment of us all;

WHEREAS current legislative efforts are being made in the United States to legalize the imprisonment of children as young as ten years old for the commission of felonies, and

WHEREAS the United Nations Subcommission On the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights resolved in August 2000 that the execution of people who were under the age of eighteen at the time of the crime “is contrary to customary international law,” and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (article 37(a), 1995) states: “neither capital punishment nor life imprisonment without possibility of release shall be imposed for offenses committed by persons below eighteen years of age,” but the United States continues to refuse to ratify this convention, and youth in the United States who committed crimes before the age of eighteen are vulnerable to capital punishment or life imprisonment; and

WHEREAS the teachings of Jesus hold us personally accountable to care for those who have been victimized and beaten down, as he illustrated in the story of the good Samaritan, and taught us to love all people, including those of us who have sinned, as he illustrated throughout his ministry;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod of the United Church of Christ expresses its concern for the injustices of the juvenile justice system which affect the lives of many young people and their families, and thanks those United
Church of Christ pastors, chaplains, and members who provide support for juvenile offenders and their families;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod of the United Church of Christ affirms advocacy for fair and appropriate treatment of youth, especially as they are involved with or at risk for involvement with the criminal justice system, and encourages the provision of pastoral care, communities of Christian love, healthy alternatives to criminal involvement, and strong and effective leadership for our youth;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon Justice and Witness Ministries, in partnership with other national organizations and agencies addressing issues of juvenile justice, to rigorously seek to advocate for just, appropriate, and ethical methods to address juvenile crimes and to reduce the excessive use of police force, racial profiling, and substantial biases in the criminal justice system that favor some and disfavor others according to class, race, ethnicity, sexual identity, physical and/or mental ability, heritage, or other general classifications;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon Justice and Witness Ministries to work collaboratively and in an ecumenical and interfaith spirit with other religious communities and groups to encourage effective diversion and counseling programs and advocate for restorative justice principles as alternatives to incarceration of youth; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon Justice and Witness Ministries, in partnership with local, state, and national organizations, to continue to work with legislative bodies to advocate fair and effective legislation to protect juveniles from early convictions and imprisonment, life sentences, and capital punishment, and to educate, protect, and provide opportunities for the well-being of our future generations.

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

Ms. Jaramillo recognized Mr. Ray Young (MONT-NO. WYO), Chair of the Finance and Budget Committee of the Executive Council, who moved that the General Synod recess for an open hearing on the proposed Budget Allocation.

01-GS-27 VOTED: The Twenty-third General Synod agrees to recess for an open hearing on the proposed Budget Allocation.

10. OPEN HEARING ON THE BUDGET
Kathy Houston, Treasurer for Local Church Ministries; Ann Kiernozek, Treasurer for Wider Church Ministries; and William Morgan, Chief Financial Officer, explained the proposed budget, providing historical information on Our Church’s Wider Mission and then answered questions from the delegates.

Following the Open Hearing, Ms. Jaramillo called the Synod back to order. Following a brief break, she turned over the Moderator’s gavel to Assistant Moderator Harter.

11. REPORT ON THE COST OF RESTRUCTURE
Mr. Harter invited General Minister and President, John Thomas, to present a report on the cost of restructure. Mr. Thomas reminded the delegates that the report could be found on pages 82–84 of the Program, Worship and Business Book. He expressed gratitude to Mr. Robert Witham, who had given outstanding leadership to the restructure process. The Synod gave Mr. Witham a standing ovation. Mr. Thomas shared some of the highlights of the transition that could not be adequately expressed through the report. There were two reasons that the costs were more than had been projected: first, the severance package that was offered to people who were no longer employed as a result of the restructure and the number of people eligible for the severance package; and second, the major reconfiguration of office space. Mr. Thomas explained how the over-expenditure would be covered with unrestricted endowment funds and reserves of the Covenanted Ministries.

12. RESOLUTION: DECLARING JUBILEE, A CALL FOR A NEW DAY IN THE SPIRIT OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Mr. Harter recognized the Rev. Dannie Williams (SOC), Chair of Committee Seven. Mr. Williams spoke of the work of the Committee and moved the adoption of the resolution, “Declaring Jubilee: A Call for a New Day in the Spirit of the United Church of Christ.” On behalf of the Committee, he recommended that the General Synod take no action.

There was some confusion among the delegates as to what a vote of no action on the resolution would mean. Brief discussion of the pros and cons followed. Ms. Sarah Smith, representing Ministers in Higher Educa-
tion, noted that United Church of Christ students are proud of their church because of the historic stance the United Church of Christ had taken. She said the work of many years should not be undone. Ron Page (LCM) called for the question.

The resolution, “Declaring Jubilee: A Call for a New Day in the Spirit of the United Church of Christ,” was defeated with abstentions.

13. RESOLUTION: NEWS MEDIA GUIDELINES
Mr. Williams moved the adoption of the resolution “News Media Guidelines.” He reported the Committee’s recommendation to defeat the resolution.

The resolution, “News Media Guidelines,” was defeated.

14. RESOLUTION: MUTUAL RESPECT WITHIN THE FAITH COMMUNITY
Mr. Williams presented the final action of Committee Seven by moving that the General Synod adopt the resolution, “Mutual Respect within the Faith Community.” On behalf of Committee Seven, he recommended that the General Synod refer this item of business to the Executive Council for further study.

An attempt was made to amend the resolution, but this was ruled out of order because of the recommendation to refer the resolution.

01-GS-28 VOTED: The Twenty-third General Synod refers the resolution, “Mutual Respect within the Faith Community,” to the Executive Council.

MUTUAL RESPECT WITHIN THE FAITH COMMUNITY

WHEREAS the polity of the United Church of Christ provides that each local church maintains its own autonomy while being bound together in structure and in faith;

WHEREAS there is a historic tradition within our denomination and our parent denominations, instituted by our forebears who sought a liberty of conscience, which encourages each member to individually seek God and to form an understanding of God’s work and God’s truth;

WHEREAS we have come to understand the United Church of Christ as a denomination that celebrates the diversity among us, which magnifies our strength, demonstrates our openness, and mandates us to welcome all of God’s people;

WHEREAS a failure to be sensitive to and welcoming of this diversity sometimes causes great pain and distress to members or parts of the body of Christ within the denomination;

WHEREAS the inability of the media and the public to understand these individual freedoms and this autonomy often causes misunderstandings or misinterpretations by the media and public when statements are made by national, Conference, or Association leaders and when press releases about actions taken by one of our national or Conference bodies or the denomination are distributed;

WHEREAS our church can only grow in Christ through this diversity if it is combined with the practice of sensitivity and mutual respect for this diversity at all levels of the United Church of Christ from individual members and congregations up through and including the national ministries; and

WHEREAS we seek to grow into that perfect state of mutual respect;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod calls upon all national covenanted ministries, Conferences, Associations, congregations, and members of the United Church of Christ to be sensitive to, recognize, respect, and welcome this diversity within our denominational family, as we gather in our congregations and at Association, Conference, or national events and when public statements are made or public actions are taken;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod calls upon all national covenanted ministries, Conferences, Associations, and their spokespersons to constantly be in dialogue with individual congregations and members, keeping them informed of various actions, pronouncements, or statements being considered with opportunities for feedback whenever possible before such statements or press releases are issued publicly; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod calls upon all national covenanted ministries, Conferences, and Associations to explain in public statements or press releases that, because of the autonomy of our individual congregations and our structure, no national, Conference, Association body, or officer thereof speaks for the 1.4 million members as a whole.

Funding for this action will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.
15. RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO (THE BYLAWS OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST)

Mr. Harter called on Ms. Linda Miller-Pretz (PW), Chair of Committee Nine. Ms. Miller-Pretz referred delegates to the printed document on recommended changes to The Bylaws. After recognizing the members of the Committee for their work, she moved the adoption of the recommended changes to The Bylaws of the United Church of Christ. Ms. Miller-Pretz yielded her time to the Rev. Charlotte Frantz who explained that the proposed changes primarily dealt with the restructure of leadership.

Mr. William Miles (WI) pointed out that some delegates had not received the information on the bylaw changes and moved that the General Synod table the issue until Tuesday.

01-GS-29 VOTED: The Twenty-third General Synod tables the motion to amend The Bylaws until Tuesday.

John Corbin (OH) called for a recount of the vote. Mr. Harter declared that the need to progress with our work was important, and that it would be prudent to move along and address The Bylaws on Tuesday. The delegates agreed. Ms. Frantz asked what items delegates needed to be prepared for the discussion on Tuesday.

16. RESOLUTION: PROGRAM FOR ESSENTIAL CONFERENCE MINISTRY

Ms. Miller-Pretz moved the adoption of the resolution “Program for Essential Conference Ministry.” Mr. Jack Seville (WIS) and Mr. George Worcester (NE), members of the Committee, spoke in favor of the resolution. Ms. Betsy Bennett (MASS) urged support and encouraged discussion within the local church.

01-GS-30 VOTED: The Twenty-third General Synod adopts the resolution “Program for Essential Conference Ministry.”

PROGRAM FOR ESSENTIAL CONFERENCE MINISTRY

The Twenty-third General Synod affirms as basic policy that all Conferences should have essential Conference ministry to be able to accomplish the basic responsibilities in the United Church of Christ as outlined in the Bylaws. Further, the General Synod affirms that establishing and providing financing for the Essential Conference Ministry Annual Fund is a basic strategy for assisting all Conferences to maintain adequate Conference ministry.

CRITERIA, GUIDELINES, AND PROCEDURES FOR FUNDING ESSENTIAL CONFERENCE MINISTRY

The purpose of this resolution is to assist small membership, large geographical Conferences of the United Church of Christ to provide staff leadership for Conference ministry. This fund will enable Conferences to provide the capacity to engage in their necessary ministries.

1. Each Conference board of directors is to be responsible for determining its own staffing pattern and needs. If, after careful, genuine, and prayerful reflection, exploration and analysis, a Conference determines that it has the financial resources to fund only a portion or not any of an additional Conference minister, but that its ministry requires additional staff, the Conference shall then be eligible to apply to the Essential Conference Ministry Annual Fund to assist in its additional staffing needs.

2. The Essential Conference Ministry Annual Fund is solely for the purpose of finding additional or associate Conference ministry staff; it is not to be used for program, meetings, support staff, or general budgetary items.

Proposals to the Essential Conference Ministry Annual Fund shall be written by the respective Conference seeking the Funds. They shall gather and assemble all the necessary documentation they deem appropriate. The proposal should include information about the resources the Conference itself brings. The request for funds would then come from the Conference and be reviewed, first by their region, to garner support.

3. Following these steps, the proposal would be forwarded to the Cabinet of the Council of Conference Ministers, the Office of General Ministries, and Local Church Ministries. The Cabinet and the national ministries, working together, shall be the decision-making body. The Cabinet is responsible for initiating and overseeing these activities. They shall review, discuss, and make further inquiry, if necessary, about each proposal. They shall review and award each grant, if approved, in a timely manner and expedient fashion.

4. The Council for Conference Ministers shall act as treasurer. Initially, the highest grant awarded will be $45,000 annually. Grants may be five-year renewable grants upon evaluation and recommendation by the region.

The General Synod requests the Office of General Ministries, Local Church Ministries, and the Conferences to participate in securing and/or providing $100,000 for the Essential Conference Ministry Annual Fund in addition to the $100,000 provided currently.
The primary implementing body is the Council of Conference Ministers with financial and other forms of assistance from the Office of General Ministries and Local Church Ministries.

The General Synod requests the Council of Conference Ministers, as implementers of the Fund, to report on its activities in its biennial report to the General Synod.

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

Notes:
1. The six regions vary greatly throughout the United Church of Christ. Therefore, it is suggested the Conference ministers of each region assume responsibility for determining how the region will fulfill its responsibility.
2. Depending on the economy, this figure may need to be revisited from time to time.
3. The procedure for review to be determined by the Executive Minister of the Ministry.

17. RESOLUTION: REAFFIRMING THE TRINITARIAN BASIS OF OUR ECUENISM

Mr. Harter called on Mr. Dennis Johnson (MA), Chair of Committee Five, who moved the adoption of the resolution “Reaffirming the Trinitarian Basis of our Ecumenism.” Mr. Johnson shared the Committee’s recommendation to defeat the resolution. While noting the importance of the Trinity within the United Church of Christ, he said the Committee felt that the basis for the resolution was a curriculum, not really the doctrine of the Trinity. He also expressed concern that no member of the Unitarian Universalist Association was available to speak to the issue. He rejected the “slippery slope” theory.

The Rev. David Runnion-Bareford spoke in favor of the resolution, affirming that the Trinity was what the resolution was about. He expressed uncertainty about the relationship with the Unitarian Universalist Association. The Rev. Paul Ashby (CAL S) welcomed all ecumenical partners, and was joyful about the Unitarian Universalist Association’s votes to abolish slavery, ordain women, stand against gun violence, and march for civil rights. He wished that they could have shared in the dialogue. The Rev. Mary Ann Neveel (WIS), a member of Committee Five, stated that the Ninth General Synod took a stand expressing the trinitarian faith of the United Church of Christ. At no time had the General Synod taken action to change that trinitarian belief. Ms. Donna Collins (SOC), a member of Committee Five, said that the biggest problem was that the title did not agree with the body of the resolution. The curriculum in question was the basis of the problem. Mr. Zoltan Szucs (OHIO) said that the resolution was unnecessary.

The Rev. William Miles (WI) called for the question.

The resolution, “Reaffirming the Trinitarian Basis of our Ecumenism,” was defeated.

18. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Assistant Moderator Harter called the order of the day and recognized Ms. Edith Guffey for the afternoon announcements.

19. RECESS

Mr. Harter declared the fifth plenary to be complete and the General Synod to be in recess until Tuesday morning at 8:30 a.m.

TUESDAY, MORNING JULY 17, 2001
Joint Plenary Session

1. CALL TO ORDER

Assistant Moderator Linda Jaramillo called the third joint plenary of General Synod/Assembly to order at 8:38 a.m.

2. ELECTION RESULTS

The Assistant Moderator announced the results of elections for the General Synod Nominating Committee, class of 2007:

Class of 2007—Clergy
Julia Tipton Rendon (IOWA)
Susan A. Henderson (NH)
Keith Mills (NOPL)

Class of 2007—Laypersons
Linda Bixby (MASS)
Elizama Velasquez (PR)
Joe Thomas (CANVN)

Class of 2007—Historically Under-represented Groups
Andrew Goedeken (CYYAM)
Mary J. Fairley (MRSEJ)


Ms. Jaramillo introduced Mr. David Anderson, Chairperson of the Executive Council, who reminded the delegates that the discussion of budget was a continuation of the conversation from the previous plenary on the Budget Allocations for the 2002 and 2003 budget years.
Mr. Anderson moved that the Twenty-third General Synod adopt the budget allocations as presented for the 2002 and 2003 budget years. The Rev. William Miles (WI) moved to amend the motion to “increase the total budget allocation by 0.5% to be designated by the Office of General Ministries.” Following considerable discussion including questions about the source of income and the appropriateness of the amendment focusing upon a fixed figure when the original motion was allocated on the basis of percentages, the motion was withdrawn by Mr. Miles.

01-GS-31 VOTED with abstentions: The Twenty-third General Synod adopts the budget allocations as presented for the 2002 and 2003 budget years totaling $12,500.00 and $12,600.00 respectively. Percentage allocations are as follows:
OGM= 22.55%; JWM= 17.35%; LCM= 29.40%; WCM= 23.65%; PB= 7.05%.

William Miles (WI) moved “to challenge the general church to increase the OCWM giving by 5%.” A friendly amendment was offered, and accepted, to add the words “including Conferences” following the word “church.” It was reported that this increase would amount to approximately $100.00 per church.

01-GS-32 VOTED with abstentions: The Twenty-third General Synod agrees to challenge the general church, including Conferences, to increase OCWM giving by 5%.

It was requested that a variety of financial information related to Key Bank as the repository of the funds of the United Church of Christ be made available, including such questions as the CRA rating of the bank, the number of women and minority members in the upper management of the bank, the number of women and minority members in the law firms representing the bank and the United Church of Christ, and the number of women and minority partners in those firms.

It was reported that this information would be made available individually, and at the Executive Council at their October meeting if the request were made in writing to the Executive Council through the Office of General Ministries. It was also requested that the information be made available to the Conferences of the United Church of Christ.

STANDING RULES
Mr. Anderson reported that the Executive Council would consider the Standing Rules for the Twenty-fourth General Synod at its meeting in October 2001.

4. RESOLUTION: RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE BYLAWS OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Assistant Moderator called on Ms. Linda Miller-Pretz, Chair of Committee Nine, who reminded the delegates that the delegation had previously considered this motion. Ms Miller-Pretz moved the adoption of the recommended changes to the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ.

01-GS-33 VOTED with abstentions: The Twenty-third General Synod adopts the recommended amendments to the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ.

Changes to the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ

Recommended Changes to Bylaw 183

183 Expenses of meetings of the General Synod, including the travel expenses 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 221a–d and 222b–c shall be borne by the Executive Council. Expenses of members named in paragraph 221c–l and paragraph 222d–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.

Changes to Bylaw 227

227 Vacancies occurring in offices, commissions, committees, and Boards of Directors of Covenanted Ministries of the United Church of Christ, or of the General Synod, or in the membership of the Executive Council, shall, unless otherwise provided, be filled temporarily by the Executive Council acting as the General Synod ad interim, such actions to be reported to the next General Synod. Officers of the Church so chosen shall serve until ninety days after the next regular meeting of the General Synod. Others shall serve only through the next regular meeting of the General Synod. At that meeting, the General Synod shall elect persons for all temporarily filled vacancies.

Changes Due to Incorporation of the Office of General Ministries:

231 The membership of the Office of General Ministries shall serve as the voting membership of the Common Services Corporation of the United Church of Christ.
242 Governance and Leadership Pursuant to paragraphs 57–62 of the Constitution of the United Church of Christ, the Office of General Ministries, shall be incorporated and governed by a Board of Directors. Its executive officers shall be the General Minister and President and the Associate General Minister, who are also Officers of the Church called by election of the General Synod. It shall act pursuant to the provisions as defined in the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ, its own articles of incorporation and by-laws, and by the rules of its Board of Directors. The Board of Directors of the Office of General Ministries performs the functions normally associated with boards of directors and such additional tasks necessary to carry out its purposes and mandates, including the formation of associated auxiliary corporations. Pursuant to paragraph 59 of the Constitution of the United Church of Christ, it has legal corporate status for the purpose of holding, receiving, and managing unrestricted, restricted, and designated allocated funds and funds donated to it from all sources. It is responsible for its articles of incorporation and required corporate documents, and establishes its own rules and bylaws. It has responsibility for organizing its ministries in order to carry out its mandates, for providing necessary staffing, and for determining the manner and site(s) of its office(s). The Board of Directors may grant authority to sub-units, ministry teams, or other appropriate entities to speak and act on its behalf within its own broad policy statements and those of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ. The Board of Directors may form task groups representing a variety of groups of the Church necessary for implementing its mission. The Board of Directors shall consult regularly and collaborate with the Boards of Directors of the other Covenanted Ministries.

243 The directors of the Office of General Ministries shall be the following then members of The Executive Council of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ:
1. Thirty-nine Conference Representatives, one from each Conference.
2. One member from the Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries.
3. 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
   - The United Church of Christ Coalition for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns
   - UCC Disabilities Ministries
   - The Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries
4. One high school-age youth.
5. One representative from the Council of Theological Education.
6. One representative from the Historical Council.
7. One representative from the Council for Ecumenism.
8. One member of the Board of Directors of the United Church Foundation, Inc.
9. One member of the Board of Trustees of The Pension Boards—United Church of Christ.
10. One member designated by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).
11. Six principal ministers of Conferences.
12. General Minister and President.
13. Associate General Minister.

244 Members of the Board of Directors of the Office of General Ministries serve on behalf of the whole church.

247 A nonprofit corporation shall be formed for the purpose of providing the above-described common services. The corporation, to be named the Common Services Corporation of the United Church of Christ, shall be governed by its articles of incorporation, rules, and bylaws, and the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ, and its actions must be consistent with actions of the Executive Council Office of General Ministries. The General Minister and President shall be the principal executive and the Associate General Minister shall be the operational executive of the Common Services Corporation of the United Church of Christ.

a) The membership of the Executive Council Office of General Ministries shall be the voting membership of the Common Services Corporation of the United Church of Christ, and as such shall be responsible for electing the Board of Directors of the Common Services Corporation of the United Church of Christ.

b) The Board of Directors of the Common Services Corporation of the United Church of Christ shall have not fewer than 13 nor more than 19 voting members, consisting of:
   (i) members of the Executive Council Office of General Ministries in such number(s) as may be necessary to comprise at all
times at least 51% of all Directors of the Common Services Corporation of the United Church of Christ;

(i) General Minister and President, and Associate General Minister. The General Minister and President will serve as Chairperson; the Associate General Minister will serve as Vice Chairperson

(ii) at least one representative from each Coveneded Ministry (other than the Office of General Ministries) and a representative from the Affiliated Ministry, the Associated Ministry, and the Council for Health and Human Service Ministries, each nominated by the respective Ministry.

(iii) such individuals possessing pertinent operational expertise as may be elected by the voting membership of the Common Services Corporation of the United Church of Christ;

c) The Board of Directors shall appoint such committees, with such responsibilities, as it deems necessary to carry out its work.

d) The membership of the Board of Directors shall reflect the commitment of the United Church of Christ 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.

e) The corporate officers of the Common Services Corporation of the United Church of Christ shall be the following:

(i) General Minister and President, who as President shall be accountable to the voting membership of the Common Services Corporation of the United Church of Christ.

(ii) Associate General Minister, who as Vice-President shall report to the General Minister and President;

(iii) Treasurer, a voluntary, unpaid position who shall be elected by, and accountable to, the Board of Directors;

(iv) Secretary, a voluntary, unpaid position who shall be elected by, and accountable to, the Board of Directors.

248 Policy decisions related to the Common Services Corporation of the United Church of Christ shall be the responsibility of the Board of Directors, providing they shall not be inconsistent with the policies of the Executive Council Office of General Ministries.

5. RESOLUTION: PENSION SUPPLEMENTATION FOR NATIVE AMERICAN ORDAINED AND LICENSED MINISTERS

Ms. Jaramillo called on Mr. Geoffrey S. Brace (PNE), Chair of Committee Six, for the introduction of the resolution “Pension Supplementation for Native American Ordained and Licensed Ministers.” Mr. Brace moved adoption of the resolution and spoke to it. After further brief discussion, the Moderator called for the vote.

01-GS-34 VOTED with abstentions: the Twenty-third General Synod adopts the resolution “Pension Supplementation for Native American Ordained and Licensed Ministers.”

PENSION SUPPLEMENTATION FOR NATIVE AMERICAN ORDAINED AND LICENSED MINISTERS

WHEREAS in 1819 Congress passed a bill providing for a “Civilization Fund,” which was the basis for church-government cooperation;

WHEREAS an act of Congress in 1873 assigned to the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions the responsibility for Protestant mission activity on Indian reservations;

WHEREAS as the missionary movement discouraged the development of leadership that could lead to self-determination, Native American congregations have historically lacked full-time Native American ordained ministers to lead them and have relied on ministers, either ordained or licensed, who have been compensated at a part-time rate;

WHEREAS most of the approximately twenty Native American ordained and licensed ministers serving Native American United Church of Christ congregations today receive low salaries and thus can establish no base for adequate retirement income;

WHEREAS these ministers serve small congregations who cannot provide financial compensation comparable to that provided to their non-Native counterparts and thus have no basis for adequate retirement income; and

WHEREAS in order to ensure a reasonable retirement program for Native American pastors who have served Native American United Church of Christ churches, financial supplementation from the wider church is needed;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod of the United Church of Christ will honor the spirit of promises, pronouncements, and commitments relating to compensation since 1973 and direct the establishment of a program to ensure ad-
equate retirement income for Native American ordained and licensed ministers who have served Native American congregations of the United Church of Christ;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod calls upon representatives of:

- The Council for American Indian Ministries
- The Minister for Native American Relations from the Office of General Ministries,
- The Racial Justice Ministry of Justice and Witness Ministries,
- The Parish Life and Leadership Ministry of Local Church Ministries,
- The Stewardship and Church Finances Ministry of Local Church Ministries, and
- The Pension Boards

to meet and develop a plan for fair and adequate pensions for those Native American Pastors who have served, are serving, or will serve Native American United Church of Christ churches as ordained or licensed ministers, and processes for implementing the plan, including the securing of financial commitments, and administering the plan, including the distribution of information to the affected ministers and congregations; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that progress on the plan’s development will be regularly reported to the Executive Council with a full report to Twenty-fourth General Synod.

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

6. RESOLUTION: PASTORAL COMPENSATION

Mr. Brace moved the second resolution of Committee Six, “Pastoral Compensation.” Mr. Brace noted the changes made by the Committee: line 28 of column two, delete the word “and” before “Justice Witness Ministries” and add “and the Pensions Boards of the United Church of Christ.”

01-GS-35 VOTED with abstentions: The Twenty-third General Synod adopts the resolution, “Pastoral Compensation.”

PASTORAL COMPENSATION

WHEREAS Jesus Christ calls us to a ministry of justice for the poor and liberation for the oppressed (Luke 4:18-21);

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ has recognized that its ministry among the American Indian people of North America has not always been one of justice and liberation (Ninth, Tenth, and Sixteenth General Synods);

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ, through the Council for American Indian Ministry, has taken measures to change the course of ministry with American Indians from that of missionary dependence to a ministry of partnership in mission and ministry without substantial participation of other United Church of Christ bodies;

WHEREAS the current leadership within the United Church of Christ American Indian congregations, lay, licensed, and ordained, have been thus far excluded from this more just and liberating ministry;

WHEREAS the ministerial leadership serving American Indian congregations continues to receive compensation substantially lower than that recommended by the respective United Church of Christ conferences as fair and just compensation. For example, American Indian pastors in the Dakota Association of the South Dakota Conference received an average annual combined salary and housing allowance of $15,438.00 for the year 2000, while the cash-base salary, not including housing, for pastors with only one year experience was recommended at $22,219.45 for the same year. Similarly, pastors serving American Indian congregations of the Fort Berthold Council of Congregational Churches in the Northern Plains Conference received an average salary plus housing of $14,451.00 for the year 2000, while the conference recommended cash-base salary, not including housing, for pastors with zero to three years experience was $22,790.46 for the same year; and

WHEREAS this compensatory disparity is tantamount to economic and racial injustice within the corporate body of the United Church of Christ;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod calls upon the Council for American Indian Ministry, the Office of General Ministries, Local Church Ministries, Justice and Witness Ministries and the Pension Boards—United Church of Christ to begin an immediate review and assessment (convened by Council for American Indian Ministry) of the compensation plans currently in place for clergy serving American Indian congregations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council for American Indian Ministry, Office of General Ministries, Local Church Ministries, and Justice and Witness Ministries make recommendations to the Twenty-fourth General Synod and to Conferences and other appropriate bodies to correct the existing disparity in compensation for clergy serving American Indian congregations.
Funding for this action will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

7. RESOLUTION: PRESERVATION OF THE MANDAN, HIDATSA, AND ARICKARA LANGUAGES OF THE THREE AFFILIATED TRIBES

Mr. Brace, continued the report of Committee Six introducing the resolution “Preservation of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arickara Languages of the Three Affiliated Tribes.” He noted the following changes made by the Committee:

line 30, column 2: replace “our” with “the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arickara,
line 31, column 2: replace “our” with “these same,
and
line 32, column 2: replace “our” with “these.”

Mr. Brace moved adoption of the resolution.

Following considerable discussion, a friendly amendment was offered by Ms. Deborah Shepard (MASS) to “allocate a sum of $30,000 to the Council of American Indian Ministry to help support the pilot language preservation program on the Fort Berthold Reservation of North Dakota,” Mr. Brace indicated that this could not be received as a friendly amendment. Ms. Shepard moved the amendment. Following further discussion, the amendment was defeated with abstentions. The Moderator called for the vote.

01-GS-42 VOTED with abstentions: The Twenty-third General Synod adopts the resolution “Preservation of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arickara Languages of the Three Affiliated Tribes.”

PRESERVATION OF THE MANDAN, HIDATSA, AND ARICKARA LANGUAGES OF THE THREE AFFILIATED TRIBES

WHEREAS the Fort Berthold Council of Congregational Churches has been aware of the steady erosion of our mother languages and recognizes that the loss of our languages has negatively impacted our children, ourselves, and has destabilized our communities;

WHEREAS the history of how this came about is intertwined with the history of the church’s deliberate actions of Christianizing by eliminating Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arickara religious beliefs and practices, languages, and culture in their totality;

WHEREAS the federal government policy of deliberately eliminating our cultural ways and lan-

guages enlisted the support of the church through its Christianizing efforts among our people which, over time, has succeeded in bringing our languages to the brink of extinction;

WHEREAS the schools created and operated by the church taught our children that speaking Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arickara was savage and wrong, consequently contributing to an internalized self-hatred that has literally destroyed countless lives through levels of depression and substance abuse and dependency;

WHEREAS in 1991 the United Church of Christ apologized to all American Indians, acknowledging its role in accepting responsibility for the assault on all American Indian Tribes, but has not addressed how it can rebuild trust and make reparation; and

WHEREAS our children deserve a life that is filled with the richness and beauty of our culture, conveyed through our mother languages, and deserve to speak the language of their ancestors which reflects a positive self-image leading to self-assurance in life;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the United Church of Christ in all its settings examines and acknowledges its role in the destruction of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arickara languages and the dismantling of these same cultures and explores how it can be supportive of preserving and reversing the loss of these languages;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that since time is of the essence, a pilot program at Fort Berthold Reservation be established to begin recording the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arickara languages immediately (there is one fluent Mandan speaker remaining) and to assure the use of language retention strategies at the following levels:

Individual. Native speakers must be supported to help latent speakers and nonspeakers learn the native languages by utilizing existing language materials and creating new materials;

Family. Language immersion activities are to be organized along with church and family-based activities—recording hymns, prayers, and so forth, in the three languages for use throughout the church;

Community. Connecting fluent speakers with nonspeakers, for example, in senior centers, linking an elder with a child or clan relative interested in learning to speak the language or promoting community meetings and conferences about native languages and making the languages accessible in the community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod of the United Church of Christ requests that Justice and Witness Ministries and Local Church Ministries work with the Council for American Indian
Ministry to address the concerns raised in this resolution.

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

8. PRONOUNCEMENT: A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST MINISTRY AND WITNESS WITH MICRONESIANS

Ms. Jaramillo called on Mr. Angel Toro (FLA), Chair of Committee Eleven, who introduced the pronouncement and noted the additional paragraph added to the Statement of Christian Conviction, which was printed in the “yellow packet” distributed to delegates. Mr. Toro also noted the Proposal for Action, also included in the “yellow packet,” which includes three changes:

- a new paragraph following the one cited above to read: “Request that Justice and Witness Ministries, in cooperation with partner churches, work together to advocate for health care for survivors,”
- page 9, line 23: change “the Assistant to the General Minister and President for Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministry” to “the Minister for Pacific Islander and Asian American Relations.”

Mr. Toro moved adoption of the pronouncement. There was considerable discussion. Two persons from the Marshall Island, Ms. Ella Ben and Ms. Elma Coleman, the latter translating for Ms. Ben, shared their experiences of having lived in the area being addressed. The Rev. Saitumua Tafaoialii (RM), a Samoan, shared insights he gained as a missionary to the Marshall Islands. The Asian Area Secretary of the Common Global Ministries reported on responses received from partner churches, the Korean Christian Church in Japan and Kyodan, after they had reviewed a draft of the pronouncement.

Mr. Jason White (OH) moved to amend the resolution by inserting in the final paragraph after “we confess our silent complicity,” the words “and our unfortunate ignorance of.” Following discussion the amendment was defeated. The vote on the pronouncement was then called.

01-GS-37 VOTED with abstentions: The Twenty-third General Synod adopts the pronouncement “A United Church of Christ Ministry and Witness with Micronesians” and the proposal for action.

A PRONOUNCEMENT ON A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST MINISTRY AND WITNESS WITH MICRONESIANS

I. SUMMARY

For the last fifteen years, the United States of America’s relationship to the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) has been defined by Compacts of Free Association (CFA). The Compacts for the FSM and the RMI are up for renewal in the year 2001. Although Guam, Belau, and the Northern Marianas are considered part of Micronesia, this pronouncement will deal only with the FSM and the RMI because of the urgent nature of the present, ongoing Compact renegotiations.

When the Compact was signed in 1986, Micronesians were not aware of the dire consequences that serving forty years as U.S. colonies and another fifteen years as neocolonies would have for the long term self-sufficiency and true independence goals of the FSM and the RMI. Furthermore, because of “dependency” systems and inequities—in the areas of health, education, and jobs—exacerbated and enlarged by U.S. trusteeship of the FSM and the RMI, many Micronesians are in exile in Hawaii and on the continental U.S. by economic necessity. For example, many Micronesians have moved to North Carolina and other places in the south to work on corporate chicken farms and in low-wage fast food service jobs.

Since the United Church of Christ Marshall Islands is the major denomination in the RMI, and the Congregational Church in Kosrae, United Church of Christ in Chuuk, United Church of Christ Pohnpei, and the Namoneas Congregational Churches Association all have partner relationships with the United Church of Christ (U.S.A.), the majority of Micronesians living in the United States consider themselves members of the United Church of Christ. Accordingly, this Pronouncement calls upon the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to welcome the Micronesians in our midst and to minister with our Micronesian sisters and brothers within our churches and our communities. The Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries (PAAM) has seen the significant participation and growth of Micronesians in the activities of PAAM in the last four years.

This Pronouncement also calls upon our UCC local churches and regional and national bodies to commit themselves to work towards full and just compensation for Micronesian peoples and the overturning of unfair provisions in the agreements during this crucial period of Compact renegotiations in the year 2001.
II. BACKGROUND

A. The Federated States of Micronesia

The Federated States of Micronesia is comprised of four island groups: Pohnpei, Chuuk, Kosrae, and Yap. In 1983, citizens of the FSM were asked to vote in a plebiscite on the Compact of Free Association with the United States. Pohnpei and Chuuk voted against the Compact, but Yap and Kosrae voted in favor of the Compact. While the Compact promises independence, its subtext reveals otherwise. As researched by British scholar Jane Dibblin in a book entitled *Day of Two Suns*, the Compacts of Free Association for both the RMI and the FSM were in fact a virtual U.S. annexation of the FSM and the RMI for military purposes, a denial of self-determination, and a shrugging-off of responsibility for past actions. The U.S. has full authority and responsibility for security and defense matters, which includes the option of establishing military bases and facilities on the islands. Nuclear-armed ships, planes, and submarines have the right to pass through and stop over. Since U.S. security interests overshadow every consideration, self-determination is not a reality in the Compact. Pohnpei and Chuuk voted against the Compact because the people were desirous of a truly nuclear-free Pacific, free from any form of nuclear weaponry.

On May 24, 1984, then Ambassador to Micronesia, Fred Zeder, testified to the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources that U.S. grants and services, which cannot be matched from other sources, would ensure that Micronesia would not be able to break free until the U.S. chooses to cut the knot of dependency. A paper was developed by Glenn Alcalay of Rutgers University in 1986 entitled “From Subsistence to USDA: Strategic Economic Dependence in Micronesia.”

The military thinking behind keeping the FSM and the RMI economically dependent on the U.S. is clearly seen to benefit U.S. security interests. The U.S. is separated from Russia and China by the Pacific Ocean and the islands of Micronesia. The forward bases of Micronesia were also intended to draw fire away from the U.S. mainland, protecting it like “pawns in front of the king on a chessboard” in the event of war.

Since the FSM does not have a key base like Kwajalein in the Marshall Islands, it has fewer bargaining chips in Compact renegotiations. Under the present Compact, citizens of the FSM and the RMI can enter the U.S. readily without going through the usual immigration and naturalization processes. However, because the word “nonimmigrant” is used to describe the presence of FSM and RMI citizens in the U.S., the U.S. Attorney General’s office has chosen to interpret the word nonimmigrant as meaning not eligible for federal housing and food stamp subsidies. Therefore, FSM and RMI citizens are forced to pay market rents in public housing so that many families are forced to pay approximately 50-60 percent of their gross income to live in public housing units. Furthermore, Micronesians are not eligible for Section 8 housing subsidies. Just recently, FSM residents in Hawaii were sent letters by the Hawaii Dept. of Human Services stating that effective November 1, 2000, food stamps would be eliminated for Micronesian children who were not born in the U.S. This action was taken despite the fact that FSM citizens are not deemed to be illegal residents in the U.S. And because the FSM has fewer bargaining chips than the Marshall Islands, U.S. negotiators are putting pressure on FSM negotiators to accept smaller compensation packages and to put the issue of unrestricted entry into the U.S. on the bargaining table, despite the fact that the access issue is not on the formal Compact negotiations agenda (i.e., not legally on the table). If unrestricted access to the U.S. is terminated for FSM citizens, the effects would be disastrous in the FSM. Everything from remittances to education to commercial ties could be hurt.

B. Justice for Federated States of Micronesia

On April 18, 1962, President Kennedy signed a National Security Action Memorandum which set forth as U.S. Policy the movement of Micronesia into a permanent relationship with the U.S. within our political framework. In order to implement the plan, Kennedy turned to Harvard economist Anthony Solomon, asking him to write a survey of Micronesia and to recommend how best to proceed. Solomon’s commission visited the islands of Micronesia during the summer of 1963, and the Solomon Report, as it is known, was issued in October of the same year. The Solomon Report was immediately classified and has remained so ever since with only a sanitized version being made available to the public. The Report called for achieving minimum but satisfactory social standards. Solomon recommended a quick injection of cash and then a plebiscite before the results of the aid faded, in effect, aid was to be used to buy votes—and once success was ensured, aid would be abruptly terminated. At the same time, “Washington should facilitate the general development of . . . loyalties to the U.S.” That was to be done by bringing leaders to the U.S., introducing a U.S.-oriented curriculum and patriotic rituals into the school system, and increasing college scholarships for Micronesians to study in the U.S. He also urged the launching of a massive Peace Corps program in Micronesia. At one point, there was almost one Peace Corps volunteer for every one hundred Micronesians. Justice for the FSM, therefore, calls for overturning the U.S. imperialism inherent in the Solomon Report.

It is clear to see that the negotiations presently going on between the FSM and the U.S. are not on a level playing field. Because of forty years of official colonization and fifteen years of unofficial colonization
through strategic economic dependency, citizens of the FSM are being told not to rock the boat, especially during this sensitive period when the Compact is being renegotiated. FSM citizens residing in Hawaii have expressed frustration that their own government will not support them in their struggle to be considered qualified legal residents in the U.S. and thereby eligible for the federal food stamp program and for federal housing subsidies. FSM residents in the U.S. feel that they are being sold down the river because the U.S. negotiators have an unfair advantage at the Compact table over FSM negotiators. To further strengthen the U.S. position at the bargaining table, the U.S. has recently audited FSM expenditures of Compact monies and raised questions about corruption by FSM government officials in Pohnpei and Chuuk.

Victims of U.S. colonization need to be supported by people of good will in the U.S. who understand the long-term psychological and economic effects of colonization.

C. Republic of the Marshall Islands

During numerous hearings before the U.S. House Resources Committee (previously known as the Department of Interior), the RMI has brought Marshallese citizens to testify about the horrors, the pains, and the sufferings the people endured as a result of their exposure to radiation from U.S. weapons-testing. Marshall Islanders also have testified to the continuing suffering and near-genocide of the people through their exposure to radiation and subsequent dislocation from their homelands. Public Law 99–239 in the Compact of Free Association was the first attempt by the U.S. government to accept responsibility for “. . . compensation owing to citizens of the Marshall Islands . . . for loss or damage to property and person . . . resulting from the nuclear testing program which the Government of the United States conducted . . . “ (Section 177[a] of the Compact). The U.S. Government also accepted responsibility and liability for the consequences of all of the tests—sixty-seven (67) in all—conducted from June 30, 1946 to August 18, 1958.

The United States took over the Marshall Islands from Japan in one of the bloodiest Pacific campaigns of World War II and then governed the region until 1986 as part of a U.N. trusteeship agreement. In 1946, the people of Bikini and Enewetak atolls were evacuated to make way for a series of nuclear tests. The people of the two atolls were told they could return within a few years, once the testing was completed. The people of Bikini were told by a U.S. military officer in 1946 that their atoll was needed for a project “for the benefit of all mankind.” The Marshallese people would never have consented to the testing if the truth had been known or told to them. After the tests on Bikini and Enewetak, the bombs grew larger and more destructive, culminating in the 1954 hydrogen bomb test that rained fallout on the people of Rongelap and other neighboring atolls. The bomb, known as Bravo, was 750 times more powerful than the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima. The 15 megaton blast vaporized the test island, eradicated parts of two adjacent islets, and created a mile wide crater. Recently declassified documents show that U.S. officials were aware 72 hours before the Bravo test that the winds in the area were shifting and that if the test was carried out, radiation would fall on Rongelap and other atolls downwind from the test site. The military went ahead with the test, knowing that human beings in the downwind atolls would suffer radiation poisoning. In addition, the food source for the people would be irradiated—no one knew for how long and to what extent. Thus, the declassified documents indicate the willingness of U.S. officials to knowingly put at risk the lives of thousands of men, women, and children—just not in 1954 when Bravo was detonated, but for many generations to come. This callous disregard for human life and for all habitat in the region is a U.S. legacy which all Christians are called to address.

Were the Marshallese people being used as guinea pigs to study the long-term effects of radiation poisoning? The declassified documents point in that direction. In 1956, Dr. G. Failla, chair of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) Advisory Committee on Biology and Medicine, wrote to AEC head Lewis Strauss: “The Advisory Committee hopes that conditions will permit an early accomplishment of the plan to return the Rongelap people. The Committee is also of the opinion that here is the opportunity for a useful genetic study of the effects on these people.” Three years later, Dr. C. L. Dunham, head of the AEC’s Division of Biology and Medicine, reiterated the AEC’s interest. Studying the Rongelap victims of the Bravo blast will, he wrote, “. . . contribute to estimates of long-term hazards to human beings and to an evaluation of the recovery period following a single nuclear detonation.” Having established the near-perfect long-term human radiation experiment in 1954, the Department of Energy still continues to compile data from their Marshallese subjects. On February 24, 1994, Rep. George Miller (D-Calif.), chair of the House Committee on Natural Resources, convened a hearing on Bravo. Recalling weather data that demonstrated prior knowledge that islanders would receive substantial fallout, Rep. Miller declared that “We have deliberately kept that information from the Marshallese. That clearly constitutes a cover-up.”

Christians and peace activists throughout the world have long acknowledged the devastation of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima during World War II. However, most U.S. citizens have not been told the story of the 67 atomic bombs detonated in the Marshall Islands and the devastation still continuing to the more than 60,000 people living on its 29 islands in the year
2001. According to Dr. Neal Palafox, who heads a
team of doctors who monitor the health of resi-
dents in the Marshall Islands on an annual basis,
“the radiation from the testing equaled about 7,000
atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima.”15 Dr.
Palafox goes on to state that the cancer originated
from the testing has reached alarming levels. He
concluded that the cancer rates—alarming as they
are—at the same time are probably underestimate
of the true cancer incidence rates.16 Dr. Palafox’s
study provides the first comprehensive data analy-
sis on the incidence rates for certain cancers in the
RMI.

How did radiation affect women’s reproductive sys-
tems? Some women who became pregnant in the
years following Bravo found they suffered an un-
expectedly high number of miscarriages and se-
verely deformed babies, often referred to as “jel-
lyfish babies.” Katherine Jilej, a midwife and a
grandmother, stated: “We are very angry at the U.S.
and I’ll tell you why. Have you ever seen a jelly-
fish baby born looking like a bunch of grapes, so
the only reason we knew it was a baby was be-
cause we could see the brain? We’ve had these
babies—they died soon after they were born. Our
first baby was born in October 1960, after the bomb,
when we’d returned to Rongelap. He was born with
a big lump on his head and died very, very young.
All the food we were eating was irradiated but we
didn’t know. I wasn’t even on Rongelap the day
the test happened but I went back there in 1957
and I was irradiated from eating the food. I think
that’s why my son died.”17

For many years, the U.S. Department of Energy
contracted with Brookhaven National Laboratory
to be the sole agency to study the health of Marshall
Islanders following exposure to radiation. More re-
cently, there has been a request by the Marshallese
people for independent studies conducted by health
experts from countries outside of the United States.
Studies conducted by Brookhaven have been seen
by the people as suspect and inadequate. When
people were moved back to Rongelap prematurely
in July 1957, Brookhaven National Laboratory sci-
entists reported: “Even though the radioactive con-
tamination of Rongelap Island is considered per-
factly safe for human habitation, the levels of ac-
tivity are higher than those found in other inhab-
ited locations in the world. The habitation of these
people on the island will afford most valuable eco-
logical radiation data on human beings.”18

D. Justice for Marshall Islanders
The U.S. government has not played fair in the
compensation paid to the Marshallese peoples, nor
in the information given to the affected communi-
ties. This came to light when people of Bikini were
told that it was safe to return to Bikini. Experts
demonstrated how radiation levels could be lowered
to scientifically-acceptable levels—an annual exposure
of 100 millirems per person—as long as people avoided
eating large amounts of local food. While Bikinians
were told that 100 millirems per person was safe, the
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) had quietly
adopted a 15 millirem standard for the resettlement of
radiologically contaminated sites in the United States.19
This 15 millirem standard has recently been adopted
for the Marshall Islands, but only after the attorney for
Enewetak Atoll, Davor Pevec, found out about the EPA
standard for U.S. residents. This double standard is also
seen in the compensation levels. While Congress has
spent $12 billion in Hanford, California, without even
putting a shovel in the ground for environmental
cleanup there, the island of Bikini has only received
$90 million thus far from the United States for cleanup.20

Recently declassified U.S. nuclear test studies show
that 22 atolls (no longer just the four atolls mentioned
for compensation in the Compact: Rongelap, Enewetak,
Utrik, and Bikini) received nuclear test fallout above
maximum permissible safety levels.21 This information
was not provided to Marshall Islands negotiators when
the Compact of Free Association, with its $150 mil-
lion nuclear compensation to survivors, was agreed
upon in 1983. While greater compensation was given
to American citizens living downwind of the Nevada
Test Site as a one-time lump sum, amounting to a bil-
dion dollars, the $150 million was not adequate to cover
the claims filed by the victims of radiation poisoning
in the RMI—approximately $7 billion dollars of compen-
sation claims are still languishing in the U.S. courts
today22 and most victims who have been compensated
have been compensated only partially and in small
monthly payments. Fully one third of the 1,574
Marshall Islands recipients of nuclear test awards have
died without receiving full compensation.23

The Marshall Island government is asking, in the re-
negotiation of the Compact of Free Association, an
additional $2.7 billion for damage caused by Ameri-
can nuclear testing. When seen in the light of $12 bil-
dion for Hanford (just for environmental cleanup), the
amount being requested by RMI is very modest. No
amount of money will ever compensate for the suffer-
ing of the Marshallese people; however, an amount
equivalent to or more than the $12 billion spent on
cleanup at Hanford would be more just.

The U.S. is now trying to stop lawsuits arising out of
the irradiation of the Marshallese from being heard in
court. The Compact of Free Association contains an
espousal clause, stipulating that the U.S. has paid a
lump sum of $150 million for damages and from now
on all responsibility falls on the shoulders of RMI. This
unjust clause in the Compact must be overturned in
the light of classified information that was not made
available to RMI negotiators at the time the Compact
was being negotiated and which now reveals the real
extent of the testing and the fact that Marshall Islanders were knowingly put at risk during the Bravo test.

E. The Church and the Pacific Islanders of Micronesia

The United Church of Christ has a historic ministry to Pacific Islanders and the people of Micronesia. It began in 1852 when missionaries from the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Mission (ABCFM) headquartered in Honolulu and Hawaiian missionaries were sent to Micronesia to spread the Gospel to the inhabitants of these remote islands and convert them to Christianity.

The Missionaries first landed on the island of Kosrae where they established a station. As the Kosraens became more God-fearing people, the missionaries began reaching out to the other Micronesian islands of Kiribati, Pohnpei, Chuuk, and the Marshall Islands. However, Kosrae remained the home-base of operation.

A mission training school was established on Mwot, Kosrae, to train men and women in church ministry. Pupils were recruited from different islands and sent to this school to study and prepare for ministerial duties. At the completion of a four-year training session, they returned home full-fledged ordained ministers and, if so selected, were assigned to nurture new churches in villages, districts, and different atolls.

During the period prior to the breakout of World War II in the Pacific, the Congregational Church in Micronesia, as it was then known, was one of the only two major denominations in Micronesia, and it garnered a larger membership. That was a time when the church was very productive and quite influential in the islands. The church was the center of every community daily activity. The Micronesians were always dedicated and faithful members of the church. They were taught to be good Christians by practicing the Golden Rule.

As the war broke, the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM) recalled its overseas missionaries. All of them returned to the United States with the exception of one, the Rev. Carl Heine. The departure of the missionaries also brought the closure of the mission training school on Mwot, and it created autonomy for each of the Micronesian island churches.

Presently, there are many other denominations that were sent to the region of Micronesia and which have since established strong ties and influence in the communities. However, the denomination that the missionaries first started in the islands, at present known as the United Church of Christ, still has its individual churches in each district on Chuuk, Kosrae, and Pohnpei of the FSM. The United Church of Christ is still the major denomination in the Marshall Islands with at least one church on each atoll and two or three on the major islands.

After World War II, the administration of these Pacific Islands shifted from the regime of the Japanese Imperial Army to the protection of the U.S. Navy and afterwards to the Department of the Interior. Under this protection, Bikini and Enewetak atolls in the Marshall Islands were used as nuclear testing sites of 67 atomic bombs.

Fifteen years ago, under separate agreements, these Pacific Islands of Micronesia negotiated their Compacts of Free Association with the U.S., which created the independent countries of the FSM and the RMI. The compacts allow for free entry (immigration) of FSM and RMI people into the United States to live, find employment, attend schools, receive better medical care, and better themselves.

As one of the newest immigrant groups to Hawaii and the rest of U.S., Pacific Islanders daily face numerous difficulties socially and economically. Many of these difficulties must be addressed by our church and people of conscience. The need to establish places of worship so Pacific Islanders can worship in their respective languages is one priority. The UCC needs to renew and strengthen its commitment to the Pacific Islanders in its new church starts and assist in providing training in the new setting.

Over the years, with assistance from the Hawaii Conference UCC, some Micronesian ministries on different islands of Hawaii were started. At present there are eight Chuukese ministries, two Kosraens, three Marshallese, and a new Pohnpeian ministry. This new church, with its newly assigned pastor, will begin its ministry this November on Maui.

In his June address, the FSM Consul General reported that there are 12,000 people from the FSM who reside in Hawaii. There are at least 2,000 Marshallese according to another source.

The Micronesian population is greater in the continental United States than in Hawaii, yet there are only five Marshallese Ministries throughout the continental United States. There is one Chuukese ministry in Portland, Oregon, and one called the Micronesian Outreach Ministry of the U.S., based in San Diego and started by Pacific Islander seminarians to address this lack of island churches and ministries. Thus, the national setting of the UCC needs to make concerted efforts to address the needs of Micronesians and other Pacific Islander groups in the United States and offer assistance as they try to establish and supply their own pastors.
As in similar cases with other ethnic minority groups who have immigrated to the United States, the Marshallese and the citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia have come to the United States to seek better schooling for their children, better employment opportunities, and currently advanced medical services. Under a separate Compact of Free Association treaty with the U.S. Government, the Micronesians are free to enter, seek employment, live anywhere, and enlist in the Armed Forces in the U.S.

III. BIBLICAL, THEOLOGICAL, AND ETHICAL RATIONALE

“I know your works; you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I am about to spit you out of my mouth. For you say, ‘I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing.’ You do not realize that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. Therefore I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire so that you may be rich; and white robes to clothe you and to keep the shame of your nakedness from being seen, and salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. I reprove and discipline those whom I love. Be earnest, therefore, and repent. Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking: if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me. To the one who conquers I will give a place with me on my throne, just as I myself conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches” (Rev. 3:15–22, NRSV).

The Prophet Amos says, “Let Justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an overflowing stream.” It is just one of the forty pairings of righteousness and justice that are found in the Hebrew Bible.24

God expected rulers to rule Righteously and justly. Those in positions of power were expected to care for those least able to care for themselves. Wicked rulers did not care to keep harmony among the people and exploited the weak. Henry Kissinger is quoted in 1969 to have said, “There are only 90,000 people out there. Who gives a damn?”25

Since the Commission for Racial Justice was the originator of environmental justice and linked the dumping of toxic waste with people of color, the United Church of Christ, in all its settings, must come aware of the injustice that still prevails, to work toward the restoration of justice, and to stand in solidarity with those who suffer in the Marshall Islands.

Jesus says, “Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me” (Matt. 25:40 NRSV). For more than 150 years, the United Church of Christ, through its antecedent bodies, has been in Micronesia. The American Board for Commissioners for Foreign Missions sent missionaries, some of them indigenous Hawaiians, to spread the Gospel in Micronesia. In more recent history, the United Church Board for World Ministries and the Common Global Ministries Board have sent missionaries to Micronesia and the Marshall Islands. But the people of the United Church of Christ have lost any knowledge of the people or the churches that are in the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia. Many of these people are still victimized by warheads of spent uranium which landed a mere five miles from their homes.

IV. STATEMENT OF CHRISTIAN CONVICTION

The God of the Holy Bible requires of us to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God. Our Lord, Jesus Christ, was moved by the response of the Canaanite woman who argued for him to help her daughter severely possessed by a demon. The radiation from nuclear and atomic testing, that even today squeezes the life from Marshallese daughters, is a demon that needs to be addressed. Christians in churches in the U.S. are being asked to help heal their brothers and sisters in the Marshall Islands, many of whom are Christian and members of the United Church of Christ in the Marshall Islands. It is incumbent upon the United Church of Christ, in all its settings, to become aware of the injustice that still prevails, to work toward the restoration of justice, and to stand in solidarity with those who suffer in the Marshall Islands and in Micronesia.

As the United Church of Christ seeks to live in faithful solidarity with our Micronesian sisters and brothers in Christ, we confess our silent complicity as United States’ citizens in perpetrating nuclear poisoning and economic exploitation of the people and environment of Micronesia. We extend our heartfelt and formal apologies for these sins and ask for forgiveness from our Micronesian sisters and brothers and from God. By making this confession, we pray that the blinders will be removed from our eyes and our silent complicity transformed into empowered discipleship through this Pronouncement.
I. SUMMARY

This Proposal for Action outlines ways in which all the ministries of the United Church of Christ may assist in restoring justice and righteousness to the people of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) in developing new Micronesian Ministries and assisting their communities as they make the transition into their new homelands in Hawaii and the United States of America.

II. BACKGROUND STATEMENT

This Proposal for Action is based upon the Pronouncement on a United Church of Christ Ministry and Witness with Micronesians. The Pronouncement presents a policy statement for the United Church of Christ’s work with Micronesians, specifically people of the RMI and FSM. This Proposal for Action provides for the program directions, mechanisms for implementation, and funding.

III. IMPLEMENTATION: DIRECTIONAL STATEMENTS AND GOALS

The Twenty-third General Synod gives the responsibility for the implementation of the Proposal for Action to the Pacific Islander and Asian American Implementation Committee.

For the purposes of implementing the United Church of Christ Ministry with Micronesians, the Twenty-third General Synod:

Calls on the Wider Church Ministries (WCM) (including the Common Global Ministries with the Disciples of Christ) and the Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to plan joint strategies for restoring justice and righteousness to the people of the RMI and FSM. WCM and JWM will work with the partner United Church of Christ churches in the RMI and FSM, the Hawaii Con-

References

3. Ibid., 182.
17. Dibblin, *Day of Two Suns*, 37.
18. Ensign and Alcalay, “Duck and Cover(Up).”
20. Ibid., A12.
22. Dibblin, *Day of Two Suns*, 184.
23. Annual Report to the Nitijela for the Calendar Year 1997, Nuclear Claims Tribunal, Majuro.
ference UCC, with PAAM, and North American Pacific and Asian Disciples (NAPAD). Included in these strategies would be ways to pressure the U.S. President, the U.S. Congress, and the related agencies of the U.S. government to provide a more just compensation for the Marshallese people affected by the nuclear and atomic radiation caused by 67 tests.

Calls on the WCM and the JWM to petition the U.S. Government to justly compensate the FSM and the RMI for the cost of strategic economic dependency over the years.

Calls upon the WCM and JWM to collaborate with the United Methodist Church and other interested denominations to monitor the progress of the U.S. formal apology to the Marshall Islanders for personal injury and property damage from nuclear and atomic tests. The United Methodist Church, at its General Conference in April 2000, passed the resolution “Marshall Islands: U.S. Accountability,” similar to the UCC Resolution which was unanimously passed with one abstention at General Synod 22 in Rhode Island.

Requests that the LCM to assist in the hiring and placement of Micronesian pastors who are bilingual and to develop support mechanisms for Pacific Islander churches.

Requests that JWM in cooperation with partner churches work together to advocate for health care for survivors.

Requests that the LCM and JWM, in cooperation with the Hawaii Conference UCC, to identify members who will begin a dialog with appropriate federal agencies to define citizens of the FSM and RMI as “qualified nonimmigrants” in order to be eligible for food stamps and housing subsidies. These benefits are being terminated and denied to them due to different classification.

Calls on the United Church of Christ to plan and implement a delegation from the United Church of Christ in the Marshall Islands and radiation survivors to travel to Washington, D.C., to lobby for more compensation. As part of this lobbying action, the LCM and JWM will jointly attempt to gather all UCC, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), United Methodist, and other Christian Congress people and/or their senior staff to hear a presentation from this delegation.

Requests that the LCM develop a proactive, multiyear program for strengthening existing UCC Pacific Islander local churches and starting new churches among the fast growing Pacific Islander American populations.
parishioners and scholars be requested to study” page 159, line 2, second column: replace “directed” with “requested”

Mr. Toro moved adoption of the resolution and spoke to it briefly.

01-GS-38 VOTED with abstentions: The Twenty-third General Synod adopts the resolution “Calling for More Just, Humane Direction for Economic Globalization.”

CALLING FOR A MORE JUST, HUMANE DIRECTION FOR ECONOMIC GLOBALIZATION

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), and “Ending the Stranglehold of Global Debt on Impoverished Nations” (Twenty-second General Synod, 1999);

WHEREAS the growth of economic globalization has raised the quality of life for many people (mainly in First World countries), it has lowered it for many others (mainly in Third World countries); it has lowered costs of food and clothing for some, while lowering wages and levels of human rights for others; it has created technological wonders for some areas, while allowing the destruction of rain forests and increases in hunger in others;

WHEREAS with the rise of globalization, concern over the major International Financial Institutions, such as the World Trade Organization, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, North American Free Trade Agreement, and others, has brought protests in numerous countries, as local laborers, merchants, farmers, human rights workers, environmentalists, and others have begun to see its effects on their countries; and

WHEREAS the rules for international commerce set by these institutions have contributed to the increases of poverty and environmental degradation in the Third World (for example, loan repayments, required by the G-7 for external debt payments, are ten times higher [relative to income] than the Allies required of post war Germany; “Structural Adjustment Programs,” required by the International Monetary Fund to qualify for debt relief are targeted to raise unemployment and lower wages; tariff resolutions, required by the World Trade Organization to enhance free trade, lower environmental standards, and allow powerful transnational corporations to compete on a level playing field with small, emerging companies);

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourage local churches and Conferences to study the implications of an increasingly globalized world on the environment and human communities, and that issues of globalization be raised in adult education programs, Bible studies, and worship services in our various churches, Associations, areas, and Conferences (study guides and worship resources will be made available) and to request and encourage that the learnings, questions, and concerns surfaced in the various settings be forwarded to the appropriate bodies;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that local church members prayerfully consider becoming involved and/or more deeply involved with campaigns that seek a more humane form of globalization which lifts persons and the environment over markets and profits, including such things as the continuing Jubilee debt cancellation campaign and the campaign against sweat shops;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Justice and Witness Ministries and Wider Church Ministries in cooperation with pastors, parishioners, and scholars be requested to study the impact of corporate globalization on the poor of the world for the purpose of bringing to the Twenty-fourth General Synod of the United Church of Christ a pronouncement of our denomination’s response to the issue; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that our national denominational leaders in offices of Global Education and Advocacy Ministry, Justice and Witness Ministries, and others be requested to work for legislative policies which advocate a humane and ecologically sound direction for economic and corporate globalization efforts.

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

Note:

10. RESOLUTION: TO END THE PRESENCE OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF VIEQUES, PUERTO RICO

Ms. Jaramillo called on Ms. Petra Malleis-Sternberg (SW), Chair of Committee Twelve, to present the recommendations of the Committee. Ms. Malleis-Sternberg moved adoption of the resolution on Vieques,
noting that the word “Team” had been left off in typing on the first line of the fourth paragraph. After brief discussion, the vote was called.

01-GS-39 VOTED: The Twenty-third General Synod adopts the resolution “To End The Presence of the United States Navy in the Municipality of Vieques, Puerto Rico.”

TO END THE PRESENCE OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF VIEQUES, PUERTO RICO

To end by peaceful efforts the United States Navy bombing of Vieques and to compel immediately its exit from the island municipality, the Twenty-third General Synod:

calls on the President of the United States to support and facilitate the implementation of the four areas recommended by the 1999 First Commission of Vieques: (1) immediate demilitarization of Vieques, (2) initiate an ecological recovery and cleanup program, (3) return back to Puerto Rico the land on Vieques illegally appropriated from 1936–1941, and (4) provide means for an economic recovery of the island, which was endorsed by the majority of the people of Vieques and Puerto Rico, and calls upon the federal government for the immediate release of those imprisoned for civil disobedience protests against the United States bombing in Vieques, and calls upon the U.S. government to cease making Vieques available to other nation’s military forces;

calls on the United Church of Christ Conferences to immediately initiate a letter campaign to the President of the United States and members of Congress requesting the immediate end of the United States Navy bombing of Vieques, to compel immediately the United States Navy’s exit from the island municipality, to immediately initiate the environmental cleanup of the island municipality and surrounding waters, and to initiate an Action Alert Program on Vieques to assist the members of its local churches to monitor the positions taken by members of the United States Congress about Vieques;

urges that Justice and Witness Ministries delegate to the Public Life and Social Policy Ministry and the Human Rights, Justice for Women, and Transformation Ministry Team the responsibility to assist the Conferences and other bodies of the United Church of Christ in the implementation of this resolution;

calls on Local Church Ministries to work with local United Church of Christ congregations and all other church settings to engage in education, prayerful solidarity, and advocacy to end the bombing;

calls on the Wider Church Ministries to use their worldwide resources to alert nations who join United States military practices and maneuvers about their complicity with ecological environment damages, poor health conditions, and economic scarcity of the residents of Vieques, making those nations aware of the risk their troops carry by the depleted uranium and other toxic materials utilized in Vieques;

calls on the Office of General Ministries to monitor the progress of this resolution and initiate joint efforts with other United States denominations towards similar goals; and

calls on the Council for Hispanic Ministries and the Hispanic Ministries Implementation Team to receive reports from the Covenanted Ministries mandated to address the issue of Vieques and report to the Twenty-fourth General Synod.

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

11. SPEAK OUTS!
The following persons spoke during the Speak Out! Session:

Mr. Marvin Silver (JWM), a member of the Justice and Witness Ministries Board, called attention to House Resolution 7, the Community Solutions Act.

Ms. Karna Burkeen (PC) invited those attending the General Synod to visit the exhibits of the Seminaries of the United Church of Christ.

The Rev. Marilyn Pagan (ILL) called on the leaders of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to address the housing crisis in Chicago and elsewhere that has occurred because of gentrification and land grabbing and because of environmental racism.

Mr. Tony Lewis (CA NV, N) told of being raised in the Missionary Baptist Church and how he struggled with the idea of the sin of homosexuality. The real problem, he said, was a failure of hospitality.

The Rev. Richard Braun (SE), a member of the Health Care Task Force, spoke of new opportunities for change in the health care industry.

The following persons from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) also spoke: John Bennett, Linda Creason, Peggy Clark, Dale Butler, and Adelle Lemon. At this point, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) conducted business. The Rev. Michael Kinnamon was invited to speak about Churches Uniting in Christ. He
invited everyone to attend the Churches Uniting in Christ Inaugural Celebration in Memphis on January 18–21, 2002, and to help interpret Churches Uniting in Christ in their home area.

The remainder of the program was given to the Discernment Process on gay and lesbian persons in the life of the church.

Before the plenary concluded, Mr. Don Manworren was given special recognition.

**TUESDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 17, 2001**

**Joint Plenary Session**

The final plenary session of the Twenty-third General Synod was opened with a song and a performance by the children’s choir.

1. **INSTALLATION OF NEW MODERATORS AND COMMISSIONING OF NEW MISSIONARIES**

Moderator Nancy Taylor noted this plenary would be the last one for this General Synod and the General Assembly. She asked for a pause to recognize and affirm the ministry of those elected to lead the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). She named Mr. Nathaniel A. Lewis Jr. as the Moderator-elect of the United Church of Christ, Ms. Carol L. Wassmuth, and the Rev. Christine M. Smith as the Assistant Moderators-elect.

Moderator Paul Rivera introduced to the General Assembly, Moderator-elect of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Alvin Jackson, the First Vice Moderator-elect, Patricia Payuyo, and the Second Vice Moderator-elect, Ted Waggoner.

Moderator Taylor offered words of scripture (Romans 12:1–8), to the elected moderators of each denomination. Moderator Rivera entrusted the responsibility for particular service in the ministry of the church to each of the new moderators, and asked for prayerful consideration of each of them for the duties and responsibilities of their ministry.

He asked that each of them prepare to serve with the help of God in Christ’s name and for the glory of God. Mr. Rivera called for affirmation of the new moderators by the General Assembly and General Synod. The new leaders were presented liturgical stoles by Ms. Bernice Powell Jackson and the Rev. Richard Hamm.

2. **COMMISSIONING SERVICE AND PRESENTATION OF MISSIONARIES**

Ms. Pat Tucker Spier and Mr. Dale Bishop presented and commissioned new missionaries preparing to take up their positions. They offered thanks to each of them and their families for responding to God’s call.

Tim and Jodi Bobbitt were called with Joshua to serve with the Disciples of Christ in Argentina.

Ellen and Andrew Collins were called to serve with the Disciples of Christ in Nepal.

Tim and Diane Fonderlin were called to serve as long-term volunteers with Habitat International, assigned to Bangladesh.

Daniel and Sandra Dourdet were called to serve with the Zimbabwe Synod of the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa.

James and Carolyn Higginbotham were called to serve as teachers in China, assigned to Nanjing University and Nanjing Seminary.

Laslo and Coralyn Medyesy were called to serve with the Reformed Church in Hungary.

Catherine Nichols were called to serve with the Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center in Jerusalem.

Douglas and Elizabeth Searles were called with McKenzie and Mickey to serve as teachers in China.

Disciples of Christ item of business called by Paul Rivera.

3. **RESOLUTION: SUPPORT FOR FEDERALLY FUNDED RESEARCH ON EMBRYONIC STEM CELLS**

Ms. Taylor called on the Chair of Committee Fifteen, Ms. Lisa Alston (SE), to present the recommended action of the Committee. Prior to hearing from Ms. Alston, Ms. Taylor reported that the action on the Standing Rules scheduled for this time slot would be referred to the Executive Council because of need for further revisions.

Ms. Alston moved adoption of the resolution on Stem Cell Research and then yielded her time to Ms. Olivia White (SC), Professor of Genetics at the University of North Texas, who spoke on the medical benefits of the use of embryonic stem cells.

An attempt was made to insert in the first “Be it Resolved,” following the word “guidelines,” the words “but opposes creation of embryos specifically to harvest the cells, and.” This was ruled out of order. Following further discussion from the floor, Mr. Kevin Myers (RM) moved that “the Standing Rules for time...
granted to presenters be set aside so that the presenter of the resolution be granted sufficient time to finish the presentation.”

01-GS-40 VOTED with abstentions: The Twenty-third General Synod sets aside the Standing Rule for time granted to presenters so that the presenter of the resolution “Support for Federally Funded Research on Embryonic Stem Cells” be granted sufficient time to finish the presentation.

Following further discussion, Ms. Taylor called for the vote.

01-GS-41 VOTED with abstentions: The Twenty-third General Synod adopts the resolution “Support for Federally Funded Research on Embryonic Stem Cells.”

SUPPORT FOR FEDERALLY FUNDED RESEARCH ON EMBRYONIC STEM CELLS

WHEREAS, Jesus set an example, by his ministry of healing and caring for the sick and disabled, challenging us to follow his example by supporting the healing and caring ministry in our own day;

WHEREAS, human embryonic stem cells can form virtually any type of human cell and thus have the potential to form tissues for any part of the body;

WHEREAS, many scientists agree that research on embryonic stem cells is more promising than that of adult stem cells that have only a limited capability to form certain cell types;

WHEREAS, many scientists believe that embryonic stem cell research could relieve suffering and possibly cure patients with a variety of disorders such as Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s diseases, juvenile diabetes, spinal cord injury, Huntington’s disease, and muscular dystrophy;

WHEREAS, there are currently over 25,000 frozen embryos in in vitro fertilization clinics that probably will eventually be discarded;

WHEREAS, the National Institutes of Health developed guidelines regulating federally funded research on stem cells, provided they were taken from frozen human embryos derived from in vitro fertilization and which would be discarded after the treatment of infertile couples;

WHEREAS, in Spring 2001 the present administration canceled the inaugural meeting of a National Institutes of Health committee that was to review the applications for federal grants to study human embryonic stem cells;

WHEREAS, there is bipartisan support for research using human embryos, including many Democratic and Republican legislators;

WHEREAS, research on embryonic stem cells is already underway in privately funded laboratories where regulations and guidelines do not apply;

WHEREAS, by banning the research, we foreclose the possibility of doing all we can to improve the lot of the living, and in many cases giving them new life;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod of the United Church of Christ supports federally funded embryonic stem cell research within ethically sound guidelines (including concern for justice, privacy, access to the benefits of the research for all) and the limitations set forth by the National Institute of Health;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod requests the General Minister and President of United Church of Christ to send a letter to the President of the United States urging approval of federal funding for embryonic stem cell research within National Institute of Health guidelines;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod requests Justice and Witness Ministries to advocate for allocation for stem cell research before the appropriate Congressional committees;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod requests Conferences, Association, and local churches to work diligently in support of the legislation allowing stem cell research, providing appropriate guidelines for such research, and allocating funds to support the research; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon the Covenanted Ministries to provide leadership and study materials for education, discussion, and theological reflection about the ethical issues of developments in the field of stem cell research.

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

Time was allotted for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to conduct business.
4. RESOLUTION: SUPPORT OF THE COALITION OF IMMOKALEE WORKERS BOYCOTT OF TACO BELL

Ms. Taylor called on the Chair of Committee Thirteen, Mr. Teamus L. Newberne (ILL) to present the work of the Committee. Mr. Newberne noted the following adjustments to the text:

The following paragraph of the first “Be it Resolved” paragraph, had been modified from its original version, and should now read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod calls upon the United Church of Christ in all its settings to boycott all Taco Bell outlets and products until such time as Taco Bell meets with representatives of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers and with representatives of the SixL’s company and other members of the Florida tomato industry to effect substantive action to improve the wages and working conditions of the farm workers who pick the tomatoes that go into Taco Bell products; and,

The following paragraph was added to the resolution as the final “Be it Resolved”:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod calls on the Justice and Witness Ministries to report to the Twenty-Fourth General Synod on the results of this action (and in the interim to Executive Council), and to notify the members and churches via regular communications of the progress of the boycott.

Mr. Newberne yielded time to Ms. Roberta Perry, with a request to grant voice. Following extensive discussion, Moderator Taylor then called for the vote.

01-GS-42 VOTED with abstentions: The Twenty-Third General Synod adopts the resolution “Support of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers Boycott of Taco Bell.”

IN SUPPORT OF THE COALITION OF IMMOKALEE WORKERS BOYCOTT OF TACO BELL

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has a long history of support for farm workers in their quest for justice and dignity, including support for past boycotts of lettuce, table grapes, and Campbell’s products, as well as the current boycott of Mt. Olive Pickle Company products;

WHEREAS, the Immokalee, Florida based SixL’s company, one of the biggest tomato producers in the United States, continues to pay the industry’s lowest piece rate to its pickers, the same piece rate it paid in 1978 (40 cents for every 32-pound of tomatoes picked);

WHEREAS, SixL’s has refused to meet with farm worker representatives to discuss issues of justice and dignity;

WHEREAS, the SixL’s company contracts with Taco Bell to provide a year-round supply of tomatoes;

WHEREAS, given the sheer volume of Immokalee tomatoes it buys to supply its worldwide operations, and given its size and economic strength, Taco Bell has power to help bring about more modern and more equitable labor relations in Immokalee’s tomato fields but has refused to meet with farm worker representatives such as the Coalition of Immokalee Workers to discuss justice for farm workers; and

WHEREAS, on April 1, 2001, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, believing that the large corporations that buy Florida tomatoes must step up to their responsibility by demanding, and obtaining changes in the shameful “sweatshop” pay and working conditions suffered by the men and women who pick their tomatoes, declared a national boycott of Taco Bell;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod calls upon the United Church of Christ in all its settings to boycott all Taco Bell outlets and products until such time as Taco Bell meets with representatives of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers and with representatives of the SixL’s company and other members of the Florida tomato industry to effect substantive action to improve the wages and working conditions of the farm workers who pick the tomatoes that go into Taco Bell products;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod calls upon members of the United Church of Christ to express their concern for farm worker justice in letters and calls to Emil J. Brolick, President and Chief Concept Officer, Taco Bell Corp., 17901 Von Karman, Irvine, CA 92614-6221 (tel. 949-863-4500); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-Third General Synod calls on the Justice and Witness Ministries to report to the Twenty-Fourth General Synod on the results of this action (and in the interim to the Executive Council), and to notify the members and churches via regular United Church of Christ communications of the progress of the boycott.

5. RECOGNITION OF LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE

Moderator Rivera called for recognition of the members of the Local Arrangements Committee.

Don Manworren recognized Tim Murtaugh from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and gave affir-
6. INVITATION TO THE TWENTY-FOURTH GENERAL SYNOD IN MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA
Ms. Taylor thanked the wonderful hosts in Kansas City. A brief video was presented on Minneapolis, site of the next General Synod, followed by a formal invitation extended by the Rev. Karen Smith Sellers, Acting Conference Minister of Minnesota, and Ms. Edi Apelt, Conference Moderator.

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) announced that the next General Assembly would be held in Charlotte, North Carolina, in 2003. Time was given for business of the General Assembly.

7. RESOLUTION: ACCESS TO EXCELLENT PUBLIC SCHOOLS: A CHILD’S RIGHT IN THE 21ST CENTURY
Ms. Taylor called on Ms. Althea White (NY), Chair of Committee Eight. Ms. White introduced the resolution “Access to Excellent Public Schools: A Child’s Right in the 21st Century,” noting a minor printing error in the distributed materials. She yielded time to the Rev. Carl P. Wallace, who spoke about the right to an education as the foremost civil rights issue. He called on local churches to become involved and to be more intentional about becoming civil rights advocates.

Moderator Taylor called for the vote.


ACCESS TO EXCELLENT PUBLIC SCHOOLS: A CHILD’S CIVIL RIGHT IN THE 21ST CENTURY
WHEREAS The National Education Association in its 2000–2001 resolution process declared “that public education is the cornerstone of our social, economic, and political structure and is of utmost significance in the development of our moral, ethical, spiritual, and cultural values”;

WHEREAS the Children’s Defense Fund declared that “equal educational opportunity is a myth in millennial America,” and that “overall, America’s children are not being educated to the high levels they have a right to expect”;

WHEREAS thirteen million—or one in five—American children live in poverty, the overwhelming majority of whom attend schools that receive inequitable and inadequate school funding due to the dependence of poor school districts on limited property taxes to support public education; and

WHEREAS these school districts, out of ignorance and racism, tend to marginalize children and families who are not of the dominant culture; and

WHEREAS the public school population of students whose first language is other than English continues to increase, thus placing even more stress on struggling school districts; and

WHEREAS there is a severe shortage of well-qualified teachers, particularly in rural and urban areas, which further perpetuates injustice in the public school system; and

WHEREAS the propensity of the popular press is to bash public schools, public school teachers, and poor families, encouraging the latter to settle for false promises and over-simplistic “solutions” such as vouchers; and

WHEREAS funding for Title I and Title VII of the Federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act, which benefits poor children and the schools that serve them, is in severe jeopardy;

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

calls on the United Church of Christ in all its settings to proclaim public school support and advocacy for the same as one of the foremost civil rights issues in the twenty-first century;

urges local churches, Associations, and Conferences, consistent with previous actions taken by the Fifteenth General Synod in 1985, “Pronouncement on Public Education,” and the Eighteenth General Synod in 1991, “Support of Quality Integrated Education for All Children in Public Schools,” to call on local, state and federal governments to enact and enforce laws and policies that support a public education system that provides each child with an equal educational opportunity;

urges local churches to recruit new and uphold existing public educators, students, parents, school boards, and community leaders as activists for the civil right to excellent public education for all children;

encourages local churches and their individual members to take an active role in their local public schools, through church sponsored tutoring, after school activities, mentoring, book drives, or other such support activities as their local public schools may immediately need. Further encourages local churches to identify, become educated about, and work to eliminate systemic barriers to excellent public education for all.
requests that Justice and Witness Ministries convene a cross-covenanted ministries Public Education Task Force to engage all parts of the wider church in the work that the AMA/CRJ Public Education Task Force began.

requests that this Task Force, in collaboration with the Justice and Witness Ministries, Local Church Ministries, and the Proclamation, Identity, and Communications Team, convene at least once yearly to visit public schools and reflect on their findings for church-wide discernment;
calls on this Task Force to work with the Ministry for Youth and Young Adult Empowerment to develop youth leadership for public school transformation;
calls on the United Church of Christ Research Department, along with this Task Force, to launch a denomination-wide survey to identify and prioritize challenges public schools face, to which the United Church of Christ may respond;
calls on this Task Force to develop an umbrella coalition across the thirty-nine Conferences of the United Church of Christ, comprised of clergy and lay persons, public school educators, parents, students, and civic activists to support public school justice, parent involvement, and equitable public school financing;
calls on this Task Force to report to the Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth General Synods on its progress, including identifying systemic barriers to excellent public education and recommending strategies to address those barriers.

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

Resolution of witness. Requires a two-thirds vote for passage.

References
1. National Education Association: Available online at <http://www.nea.org/resolutions/00/00a-1.html>.

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) conducted business.

8. RESOLUTION: HEALTH EFFECTS AND IMPACTS OF TOBACCO ON CHILDREN, TEENAGERS, AND THEIR FAMILIES
Ms. Taylor called on the Chair of Committee Four, Ms. Amarilys Ramos (PR), to present the recommended action from Committee Four. She noted a change to the third “Be It Therefore Resolved:” following the words “the Interministry Health Table,” add the words “. . . the Association of United Church Educators, Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries . . . .” Ms. Ramos moved adoption of the resolution on the Effects of Tobacco on Children, Teenagers, and Their Families. After discussion, Moderator Taylor called for the vote.

01-GS-44 VOTED: The Twenty-Third General Synod adopts the resolution “Health Effects and Impacts of Tobacco on Children, Teenagers, and Their Families.”

HEALTH EFFECTS AND IMPACTS OF TOBACCO ON CHILDREN, TEENAGERS, AND THEIR FAMILIES

WHEREAS, God’s good gift of creation includes our bodies, and we are called to be good stewards of our life and health;

WHEREAS, part of our responsibility for sharing in the shepherding activities of society as citizens is to help create conditions for the health of our communities;

WHEREAS, tobacco is the leading preventable cause of death in the United States;

WHEREAS, worldwide, every ten seconds another person dies as a result of tobacco use;

WHEREAS, smoking of tobacco products is a major cause of illness that contributes to the premature death of hundreds of thousands people living in the United States;

WHEREAS, each day three thousand young people become regular smokers;

WHEREAS, four to five million youth aged twelve to seventeen are current smokers;

WHEREAS, smoking rates among youngsters continue to rise and are at their highest levels in nineteen years;

WHEREAS, tobacco companies are targeting their promotional efforts to children and youth with the result that ninety percent of new smokers are teenagers or younger;

WHEREAS, exposure to environmental tobacco smoke worsens symptoms of asthma and causes respiratory infections in children;
WHEREAS, we recognize that the right of individuals to use tobacco products in religious ceremonies should be preserved; and

WHEREAS, it is our Christian responsibility to speak out and take action against those who would seek profit and wealth by promoting tobacco;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod recommends that Justice and Witness Ministries call upon the appropriate Justice and Witness Ministry Teams, the Parish Life and Leadership Team in Local Church Ministries, Health and Wholeness in Wider Church Ministries, local churches, Associations, and Conferences to be in discussion about the implications of recent research on the health impacts of tobacco usage on children, teenagers, and their families;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod requests that Justice and Witness Ministries encourage local churches, Conferences, and Associations to engage in collaborative community and national efforts that are aimed at preventing and/or reducing youth tobacco use including:

- sponsoring self-help groups for persons who want to stop smoking,
- providing children and youth group learning opportunities that educate them about the health effects of smoking and smokeless tobacco, and
- providing educational sessions for parents on how to guide and talk with their children about tobacco;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod requests that Justice and Witness Ministries convene the United Church of Christ Parish Nurse Network, the United Church of Christ Health Task Force, the Interministry Health Table, the Association of United Church Educators, Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries, and other interested and identified bodies to work in concert to identify ministry models and strategies to show how church members and churches can respond to the tobacco issue; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that covenanted ministries, organizations, health and human service institutions associated with the United Church of Christ, Conferences, Associations, local churches, and members of the United Church of Christ express compassion and concern for persons who are currently addicted to the use of tobacco products and be urged to join in education and advocacy activities to advance legislation that reduces the smoking of tobacco products without being punitive towards individuals who do smoke.

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

References
Health and Wellness Program, JWM
Public Life and Social Policy, JWM
David Jenkins, Ph.D., United Church of Christ, Chapel Hill
Ted Johnson, Ed.D., West Parish UCC, Andover

The Rev. William Ingraham (MI) called for point of personal privilege. He talked about the National Offices’ intentional work to maintain diversity among the staff. A comparison would be made in the fall of 2001 of the current and prestructure staffing of the National Offices, between the old and new staffs.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS
Ms. Edith Guffey and Mr. Don Manworren noted that the business of the General Synod and the General Assembly was officially completed. Mr. Manworren reported that there were 8,045 Disciples in attendance, 1,500 of whom were youth. General Minister and President, Dick Hamm, thanked the moderators of the Christian Church (Disciple of Christ). Moderator Paul Rivera called forward Lanny Lawler, First Vice-Moderator, and presented him with a plaque in appreciation of his service. Ms. Guffey and Mr. Hamm thanked all of the staff that was responsible for making the General Synod and the General Assembly meetings successful.

10. FINAL REPORT OF THE TWENTY-THIRD GENERAL SYNOD CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE
Ms. Guffey gave the final report of the Credentials Committee as follows: there were 711 Conference Delegates, 200 Covenanted Ministries and Ex-Officio Delegates, 74 Associate Delegates, 33 Voice-without-Vote Delegates, 24 Honored Guests, 1,754 Visitors, 440 Youth, 118 Ministries Staff, and 40 General Synod Staff for a total of 3,394 United Church of Christ persons at the Twenty-third General Synod!

Words of thanks were extended to Moderators: Nancy Taylor, Dick Harter, and Linda Jaramillo. Chalices were presented to each of them, as the audience responded with a standing ovation.

11. FINAL SPEAK OUT!
Ms. Taylor called upon the participants of the final Speak Out!

Ms. Cynthia Dobson McBride (Disciples of Christ) urged fellow Disciple colleagues to act on the decision on Churches Uniting in Christ. She called on them to form study groups with the United Church of Christ, to perform communion with the Methodist, or a concert with the African Methodist Episcopal or Zion
churches, as a way of becoming one with other denominations.

Ms. Maureen Mattern (Disciples of Christ) stressed the need for cell phones and pagers to be turned off or on silent mode during business.

Ms. Lucy Maier (Disciples of Christ) named persons who were left off the memoriam list: Pauline Tims, Jenny and Imogene Hayes.

Mr. Michael Immel (Disciples of Christ) issued a plea to overcome bigotries and phobias and be more intentional about becoming open and affirming.

Mr. Dale Butler (Disciples of Christ) gave thanks for missionaries. He spoke against homosexuality and how it relates to the mission of the welcome table.

Moderator Taylor recognized Dick Sparrow, UCC Speak Out! Coordinator.

Mr. David Inglis (RM) encouraged all United Church of Christ churches to confront the Boy Scouts of America regarding its policy on gay members.

The Rev. Julia Rendon (IA) expressed concern for the national budget and pastoral compensation. She challenged churches to give more in support of the smaller rural churches that are struggling to survive.

Mr. James Boodley (NY) thanked the Disciples for their discernment process. He felt they were both thoughtful and graceful in their approach to the issue of homosexuality.

The Rev. Robert Martin (MICH) invited groups to commit a portion of their tax rebates to mission.

The Rev. Arthur Cribbs (CA NV, S) gave thanks for the passage of the public education resolution. He invited everyone to take back to their congregations the brochure “Separate and Unequal.”

The Rev. Daehler Hayes (RI) suggested reaching out to three persons twenty times to reach the entire world with the Haitian greeting.

The Rev. Maria Palmer (SOC) shared that of the 10,000 ordained ministers, there are less than 250 who are under the age of 35. She expressed the hope of more young people going into the ministry.

12. THEOLOGICAL REFLECTIONS

Rita Nakashima Brock noted the bittersweetness of the concluding of the General Synod and the General Assembly. She saw the mission of both of these entities as touching the world in important ways and as witnessing to God’s word. Dale Bishop spoke of the nonvoting participants in attendance who came just because it is church. The church is a gift, and their acts were acts of faithfulness.

Moderator Paul Rivera responded on behalf of all of the moderators.

13. MOTION TO ADJOURN AT CONCLUSION OF WORSHIP SERVICE

The wrap-up video, “A Look Back,” was shown.

Ms. Taylor called for the adjournment of the General Synod at the conclusion of the evening worship service.

The Benediction was offered.
APPENDIX A
STANDING RULES FOR THE TWENTY-THIRD GENERAL SYNOD

THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

1. The General Synod is the representative body of the United Church of Christ and is composed of delegates chosen by the Conferences, from among the members of its Local Churches, the voting members of the Boards of Directors of Justice and Witness Ministries, Local Church Ministries, Office of General Ministries, and Wider Church Ministries, 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, Para. 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 their delegation. These persons shall be registered by the Registrar or the Assistant Registrar and accredited as delegates.

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

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

B. In the event of a challenge to the composition of a delegation, the Credentials Committee shall consider the matter on the basis of the (1) provisions of the Conference for electing its General Synod delegates and (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. Covenedanted Ministry delegates shall be seated together by Covenedanted Ministry, except that those who are Conference Ministers shall be seated with their conference delegates, and those who are representing another Covenedanted Ministry shall be seated with the delegates of the Covenedanted Ministry to which they were elected. Each Covenedanted Ministry delegation shall be seated separate from the other Covenedanted Ministry delegations.

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 of each Conference who may be seated with their Conference delegation.

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, 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 will hold membership in a local church of the United Church of Christ.

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

B. 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 will hold membership in a local church of the United Church of Christ.

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

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

11. Honored Guests, Former Officers of the United Church of Christ, and the Moderator of each past General Synod; Chief Executive Officers of formerly Recognized and Established Instrumentalities, and Commission of Racial Justice, who retired from these positions, 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.

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 2/3 vote of a General Synod. It is based on biblical, theological, and ethical grounds. Until adopted, the statement presented for consideration by a General Synod is a Proposed Pronouncement. Proposals for Action shall not be included in Proposed Pronouncements. (See B. Proposals for Action, below.)

2. Sources: A Proposed Pronouncement may be submitted only by:
   a. a General Synod delegate or delegate-elect with the written concurrence of at least ten additional General Synod delegates or delegates-elect from two or more Conferences;
   b. a Local Church, with the written concurrence of at least five other Local Churches of the United Church of Christ;
   c. an Association;
   d. a Conference;
   e. a Covenanted, Associated, or Affiliated Ministry or other body as defined in Article VI of the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ.

3. Procedures for Considering Proposed Pronouncements are:
   a. A Copy of the Proposed Pronouncement must be sent to the Office of General Ministries of the Church at least eight months before the opening of a General Synod.
   b. The Office of General Ministries will send the Proposed Pronouncement to the Local Churches, Associations, Conferences, and delegates at least six months in advance of a General Synod. It shall be labeled “Proposed Pronouncement-Circulated for Discussion and Comments.”
   c. The Executive Council shall designate a committee or other group to review the Proposed Pronouncement and make recommendations to a General Synod. The initiator(s) of the Proposed Pronouncement shall designate a person
to support the Proposed Pronouncement before the committee or group designated by the Executive Council. Additional persons may provide support or opposition.
d. The Office of General Ministries will receive responses to the Proposed Pronouncement from Local Churches, delegates, delegates-elect, Associations, Conferences, Covenanted, Associated, or Affiliated Ministries or other bodies as defined in Article VI of the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ, including the record of any votes taken. The Office of General Ministries will provide one copy of each response to the committee or group designated to review the Proposed Pronouncement, retaining one copy in the Office of General Ministries. A report shall be made to the General Synod of the volume and character received.
e. The committee or group designated by the Executive Council to review the Proposed Pronouncement shall have the following duties:
1. To coordinate the responses received;
2. To hold open hearing(s) after proper notice.
3. To present, after such hearing(s), to a plenary session of the General Synod its recommendations for action. Such action may be approval, disapproval, amendment, consolidation, referral, or no action. A substitute motion or other amendment which radically alters the basic intent or direction of the original Proposed Pronouncement, however, shall be ruled out of order.
f. Copies of the Proposed Pronouncement and the recommendations of the committee or group reviewing the Proposed Pronouncement must be distributed to the delegates before action can be taken.
g. If adopted, the Pronouncement shall be communicated throughout the United Church of Christ and to the public.

4. Format: A Proposed Pronouncement and its supporting materials shall be submitted and circulated in the following format (Proposed Pronouncements and supporting materials which do not follow this format will be returned for revision):
a. A brief title with an information sheet indicating the source of the Proposed Pronouncement, date of submission, and any other information pertinent to the Proposed Pronouncement.
b. A brief summary (an abstract)
c. Background statement indicating 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 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 delegate-elect, from two or more Conferences;
b. a Local Church, with the written concurrence of at least five other Local Churches of the United Church of Christ;
c. an Association;
d. a Conference;
e. a Covenanted, Associated, or Affiliated Ministry or other body as defined in Article VI of the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ.

3. Procedures for Considering Proposals for Action are:
a. A copy of the Proposal for Action must be sent to the Office of General Ministries of the church at least eight months before the opening of the General Synod.
b. The Office of General Ministries will send the Proposal for Action to the Local Churches, Associations, Conferences, proposed implementor(s), and delegates at
least six months in advance of a General Synod. It shall be labeled “Proposal for Action-Circulated for Discussion and Comments.”

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

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

e. The proposed implementors shall be required to provide to the General Synod a statement of feasibility and an estimate of the financial implications for the Church at the national level of the Proposal for Action.

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 implementors.

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

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

b. A brief summary (an abstract).

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

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

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

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

g. A statement that the implementation of the Proposal for Action is subject to the availability of funds.

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 Covenanted, 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 2/3 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. any three delegates or delegates-elect from two or more Conferences,
   b. a Local Church,
   c. an Association,
   d. a Conference,
   e. a Covenanted, Associated, or Affiliated Ministry or other body as defined in Article VI of the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ.

3. Procedures for Considering 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 to the Office of General Ministries of the Church by February 15, before the opening of the General Synod. The Office of General Ministries shall send copies to delegates by May 15.
      2. A Resolution or Other Formal Motion which could not have been anticipated or submitted in conformance with the above deadline must be received by the Office of General Ministries of the Church at least three weeks prior to the opening session of the General Synod at which it is to be considered.
      3. A Resolution or Other Formal Motion which could not have been anticipated or submitted three weeks prior to the opening session of the General Synod may be presented to the Office of General Ministries during those three weeks, or by a voting delegate to the Executive Council on the day of registration, or at a designated point in the agenda of Synod where new business may be introduced by title only, or when there is no other business before the Synod provided that there will remain twenty-four hours for study before action is taken by the Synod. The presenter must be accompanied by two other delegates, at least one of whom must be from a second conference, and must provide at least 1000 copies of the proposed Resolution or Other Formal Motion for distribution to the proposed Resolution or Other Formal Motion for distribution to the Executive Council, Business Committee, Officers, chairpersons of committees, delegates, and to each conference.
   b. Every Resolution or Other Formal Motion received prior to the General Synod shall be referred to the Executive Council or, during the General Synod meeting, to the Business Committee. The Executive Council or Business Committee shall, in respect of each proposal, either (1) present its own recommendations to the General Synod or (2) assign it to a committee or other group for review and recommendation to the General Synod. Such recommendations may include approval, disapproval, amendment, consolidation, referral, or no action. (see Rule 22)
   c. No Resolution or Other Formal Motion shall be considered by the General Synod if similar action has been taken during one of the two previous General Synods unless the proposal would significantly change the previous action. The burden of proof shall remain with the presenter.
   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 in advance before action can be taken.

4. Format: Resolutions and Other Formal Motions shall be presented in the following format:
   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. 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 of the Resolution or Other Formal Motion, if appropriate.
   c. The biblical, theological, and ethical rationale; the financial implications; and the expected outcome, if appropriate.
   d. The text of the motion.
   e. A statement, if appropriate, that the implementation of the Resolution or Other Formal Motion is subject to the availability of funds. There is no financial guarantee of any kind other than the annual budget determined by the Executive Council (73 GS 81).
f. A statement, if appropriate, 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 four 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 Pr onouncement, Proposal for Action, Resolution, or Other Formal Motion may be requested for no more than the three General Synods immediately following that General Synod.

PROCEDURES FOR PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

15. Article XII of the Constitution of the United Church of Christ provides for and governs the amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws.

REPORTS TO THE GENERAL SYNOD

16. Reports to the General Synod with no action required shall be placed on file. 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

17. A quorum for the conduct of business at General Synod shall consist of 1/3 of the voting delegates, provided that in this number at least 2/3 of the Conferences are represented by at least one delegate each (United Church of Christ Constitution, Para. 53).

18. All proceedings of the General Synod shall, unless otherwise provided for, be governed by current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order (United Church of Christ Bylaw 182).

19. 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.

20. 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.

21. The agenda as adopted by the General Synod may be changed by 2/3 vote or general consent upon recommendation of the Business Committee or motion from the floor.

22. 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 that 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 2/3 vote unless decided by general consent.

K. Non-delegates, not otherwise authorized to speak, may speak only by a 2/3 vote of the General Synod.

23. 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

24. 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.

25. Procedures to be followed when a minority resolution is to be considered shall conform to the following provisions:

A. A delegate who plans to propose a minority resolution should, at the time of the consideration of the original proposal, request of the moderator that the percentage of votes in the affirmative be determined and recorded so that eligibility for proposing a minority resolution can be established.

B. A minority resolution is to be voted upon 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 25B, above.

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

PROCEDURES FOR NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

26. The Nominating Committee shall make nominations from the platform as provided by the Constitution and Bylaws. Nominations may also be made from the floor. (Members of the Nominating Committee are nominated by the Executive Council. Some members of the Office of Communication are nominated by the Executive Council and other National bodies of the United Church of Christ. These nominations are made from the platform by the Business Committee.)

27. Biographical information on each candidate shall be made available by the Nominating Committee for those it nominates, by the Executive Council and other National bodies of the United Church of Christ for those they nominate, and by a delegate making a nomination from the floor. The Nominating Committee, the Executive Council, and other National bodies of the United Church of Christ shall submit their information to the General Synod not later than the opening of the business session in which the Nominating Committee reports to the General Synod. A delegate making a floor nomination 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.

28. Written consent of each nominee other than floor nominees is required prior to election and should be submitted to the Office of General Ministries. The person making the floor nomination shall provide verification of the consent of the nominee in a form acceptable to the Office of General Ministries pending receipt of written confirmation.

29. All nominations shall be presented by name only. Biographical information for all nominees shall be distributed in printed form.
30. The Business Committee shall administer the nomination and election procedures. The Executive Committee 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.

31. Election by ballot shall be required only when an election is contested.

32. If more than one nomination is made for the Executive Council from any one Conference, the General Synod shall vote on which name shall appear on the final ballot. A three minute nomination speech shall be allowed for each nominee prior to this vote.

33. 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 35. Votes for write-in candidates and abstentions shall not be counted.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Bio. Info. Required</th>
<th>Floor Nominations Allowed</th>
<th>Nominating Speech (Max.Mins.)</th>
<th>No. of Seconding Speeches Allowed</th>
<th>Seconding Speech (Max.Mins.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Moderator</td>
<td>50</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Moderators</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(only when contested)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Council</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nominating Committee</td>
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<td>3</td>
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</tr>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>Covenanted Ministries</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

36. The Moderator and Assistant Moderators of the General Synod shall be elected by majority vote, a majority being based on the number of votes cast for the office. The results and number of votes cast for each 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 AND 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, candidates 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, each 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 10 minutes prior to the call by election.

40. An affirmative vote of at least 60% of the legal votes cast is necessary for each candidate to be called and elected by the General Synod to serve as an officer of the church.

GENERAL RULES

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

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

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

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

45. Planned demonstrations and celebrations on the floor and visitor’s 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 Joint Planning Committee for the Common Gathering, in consultation with the host Conferences and Region (CC/DC), will determine the number of offerings to be received at General Synod 23 and shall announce the offering(s) at the Spring, 2001, meeting of Executive Council. In the event that an exceptional need arises after the Spring meeting of the Executive Council or during the General Synod itself, the Business Committee of the General Synod may authorize an additional offering to meet that need during the General Synod.

49. These General Synod Standing Rules shall be originally adopted as a group by 2/3 vote. Thereafter, any rule(s) may be amended or rescinded by a 2/3 vote. Some rules may be suspended for a single instance by majority vote bringing into effect the standard parliamentary rule if one exists.

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

RESOLUTION: JUSTICE AND PEACE IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

WHEREAS the present administration has slowed down the reunification of North and South Korea;

WHEREAS with the advent of the current advisors to the President, the United States government is moving towards a cold war mentality;

WHEREAS the present administration is pursuing a missile defense system that threatens to undo the nuclear proliferation treaties;

WHEREAS the present administration is not abiding by the commitments of the Kyoto Environmental Summit to reduce carbon dioxide emissions which would reduce global warming and therefore preserve island nations in the Pacific Ocean;

WHEREAS the incidents with the Ehime Maru, the intelligence plane’s accident over Chinese territory, and the nuclear submarine docking in Japan without the agreement of a twenty-four hour notice, all point to the deterioration of relationship with these Asian Countries;

WHEREAS the United Nations has called on the United States and other nations with interest in Pacific Nations to decolonize and to set these nations free;

WHEREAS the General Synod, having discerned that God wants the United Church of Christ to be a church working for justice and peace and, therefore, have adopted many resolutions regarding East Asia, Southern Asia, and the Pacific; and

WHEREAS the General Synod has proclaimed that the integrity of creation is what God wants, and has adopted resolutions to combat global warming;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls on the Justice and Witness Ministries and the Wider Church Ministries to study the resolutions of past General Synods regarding East Asia, Southern Asia, and the Pacific Islands; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod of the United Church of Christ, calls on the Covenanted Ministries of the United Church of Christ to continue to implement these resolutions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Covenanted Ministries of the United Church of Christ report progress to each meeting of the Executive Council; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Collegium of Officers of the United Church of Christ write to the president of the United States, the vice president of the United States, the secretary of defense and the secretary of state, expressing the General Synod’s position on these crucial issues; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod calls on the United Church of Christ in all its settings to become more aware of the critical nature of the Asia and the Pacific regions and to take action to promote the integrity of creation, justice, and peace in those regions.
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A NEW TRIAL FOR MAURICE CARTER

WHEREAS there are clear and compelling discrepancies in the pursuit of justice in the Maurice Carter case; and

WHEREAS the justice system itself must correct these discrepancies; and

WHEREAS the people of God are called to seek justice, and

WHEREAS the Michigan Conference United Church of Christ, gathered at its annual meeting at Hope College, Holland, Michigan, on June 1-2, 2001, adopted a “Resolution in Support of a New Trial for Maurice Carter” (by a vote of 147 yes, 7 no, 2 abstentions) in which it:

(a) expressed its support, through its prayers and witness as the Body of Christ, of the ministers and congregations in the Benton Harbor area who are seeking justice for Maurice Carter and his family;

(b) asked its Conference Minister, in conjunction with the ministers and congregations of the Benton Harbor area, to communicate in writing to the Berrien County Prosecutor, Mr. James Cherry, and the Attorney General of the State of Michigan, Ms. Jennifer Granholm, to pursue a new trial for Maurice Carter;

(c) asked its Conference Minister to encourage the Berrien County Prosecutor and the Attorney General of the State of Michigan to thoroughly review this case and to make recommendations to the legislature for appropriate action so that future miscarriages of justice might be prevented; and

WHEREAS the Michigan Conference United Church of Christ also resolved that its “Resolution in Support of a New Trial for Maurice Carter” should be forwarded to the General Synod in Kansas City for consideration and written support;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod joins the Michigan Conference in calling for a new trial for Maurice Carter.
WHEREAS our Bible gives a clear description of how we are to greet, treat and embrace the alien, migrant and neighbor in our midst.

WHEREAS the number of migrants dying as they cross into the United States is at an all-time high and needs an emergency response from our church and all sectors of our society;

WHEREAS Humane Borders is an active faith-based organization capable of providing humanitarian assistance and substantive policy change;

WHEREAS following at least seventeen deaths in one twenty-four hour period (May 24, 2001), federal, state, county, and private land managers are now calling on Humane Borders to install and maintain water stations on their property;

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ through its One Great Hour of Sharing offering has supported Humane Borders and its efforts to minister to the migrants; and

WHEREAS our U.S.-Mexico border is increasingly militarized with the continuous addition of US Border Patrol agents;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Synod of the United Church of Christ meeting July 13–17, 2001, in Kansas City, Missouri, endorses the efforts of Humane Borders giving humanitarian assistance to migrants and seeking positive change in the U.S. border policies;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that individuals, congregations, and denominational organizations are asked to share the joys and cost of supporting this lifesaving ministry through contributions, membership, and communications;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service be advised that our General Synod objects to policies that systematically endanger migrants; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the president of the United States is urged to effect policy changes to reduce the number of migrant deaths.
A CHRISTIAN RESPONSE TO DEVELOPMENT IN GENETIC TECHNOLOGY

WHEREAS: The General Synod of the United Church of Christ has repeatedly called for a Christian response to developments in genetic technology via

- 14th General Synod (1983) Resolution: Concern About the Moral and Ethical Implications of Genetic Engineering
- 16th General Synod (1987) Resolution: The Church and Genetic Engineering
- 17th General Synod (1989) Pronouncement: The Church and Genetic Engineering
- 21st General Synod (1997) Resolution: The Cloning of Mammalian Species, and

WHEREAS: The media are increasingly filled with stories about dramatic new developments in genetic technology and the dangers of misuse of this new knowledge, and

WHEREAS: From March 31—April 12, 2000, twenty-four lawyers, physicians, and theologians from South Central Conference gathered at Slumber Falls Camp to discuss these developments in genetic technology and their moral, ethical, social, and theological implications and produced a message on this subject to the churches, and

WHEREAS: Contrary to popular opinion, the Colloquium Membership discovered through their legal members that there is no Article, Clause, or Phrase in the United States Constitution that protects or guarantees the privacy of a person in this country, and

WHEREAS: The Privacy Act of 1974 by the United States Congress and signed into law is of significance, but it does not have the strength that an Amendment to the Constitution would exercise and carry greater weight regarding ethical, moral, and legal matters of privacy of the individual.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod adopts the "Message of the Colloquium on Genetics," and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod requests the Office of the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ and the Justice and Witness Ministries to initiate a Privacy Amendment to the United States Constitution and identify other allies in support, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Message and Resolution be sent to the president of the United States, governors, senators, and members of Congress from the states of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas for consideration and action.

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

Resolution of witness. Requires a two-thirds vote for passage.
CALL FOR STAFFING TO ADDRESS ECOJUSTICE CONCERNS

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ has by resolutions, pronouncements, and proposals for action over many years proven itself to be deeply concerned with issues of the environment, including, but not limited to, issues of ecojustice and environmental racism, air and water quality, sustainable growth, and matters of national and international environmental policy, and

WHEREAS a review of Synod history between 1975 and 1999 identified over twenty actions that deal explicitly with various environmental concerns, and

WHEREAS the Seventeenth General Synod recognized the role of the Church in environmental issues by adopting the priority, “Integrity of Creation, Justice and Peace,” affirming that these issues are central to our identity, and called on many instrumentalities of the church to address these issues, and

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ has encouraged member conferences and churches to examine their own role within their community and to adopt a posture of being a “Whole Earth Church” or “Whole Earth Conference,” and

WHEREAS issues of environmental integrity and sustainability are of great and increasing importance to individuals, communities, and the global ecosystem, and

WHEREAS God has created all things (Genesis 1—2, John 1:1–5), joined in relationship with all creatures (Genesis 9:8–17, Job 38—41), and redeems all of creation (Romans 8:18–25, Colossians 1:15–20), and

WHEREAS God calls humans to strive toward shalom—peace, justice, and harmony for all of creation, and

WHEREAS responding to God’s love and grace requires that people in the modern world rethink the place and purpose of humanity within God’s creation, and

WHEREAS in our modern world, a faithful response to God’s creation, redemption, and call toward shalom requires more than ministries of justice and witness, but also requires education, pastoral care, spiritual direction, acts of service, and new perspectives in worship, and

WHEREAS under the current structure of the denomination, individual members, churches, and conferences, as well as secular and religious bodies outside of the church, do not have a clear point of contact for information, assistance, and leadership in areas involving environmental faithfulness, and

WHEREAS other secular and religious bodies outside of the church have ongoing, active and vital environmental offices which could benefit conferences, churches, and individual members of the United Church of Christ if such contact was facilitated, and

WHEREAS prior actions of General Synod make clear the intent that faithful attention to environmental issues requires leadership, program, and resources from all parts of the national church, addressed to local churches as well as ministries in other settings, and

WHEREAS “ecojustice” refers both to the intertwined areas of environment sustainability and social justice and to theological and spiritual perspectives that affirm the integrity of creation, and

WHEREAS it has become clear that ecojustice cannot be broadly addressed in Covenanted Ministries without staff assigned to that theme;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod affirms the many actions by previous Synods which have dealt with the integrity of creation and environmental issues and looks to that history of action as an indicator of broad theological and ethical conviction in support of ecojustice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod urges the four Covenanted Ministries to evaluate the extent to which their programming and staffing reflect the United Church of Christ’s deep and historic commitment to ecojustice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the four Covenanted Ministries are encouraged to identify clearly the program areas and the member of their staff that address ecojustice concerns.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod requests the Executive Council to provide ongoing encouragement and support to the Covenanted Ministries as they work individually and collaboratively for ecojustice.

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

Prudential resolution. Requires majority vote for passage.
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PRINCIPLES FOR REFORM OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

WHEREAS our criminal justice policies in the United States have resulted in an imprisonment rate that is higher than that of any other country, and

WHEREAS the resulting imprisonments are seriously flawed by economic disparity and racial profiling, and

WHEREAS a high majority of those serving prison terms have committed crimes of nonviolence which could be more effectively addressed in treatment or diversion programs, and

WHEREAS criminal justice policies in the United States are currently directed toward punishment of offenders and seldom address the needs of the victims, and

WHEREAS the present approach to criminal justice and violence is simply not working as demonstrated by:

• a continuing high crime rate; a high recidivism rate among those who have “paid their debt to society”

• extremely high personal and social cost to the victims and offenders who are discarded by society

• a heavy burden on the financial resources of every community, and

WHEREAS the restorative justice principles being adopted by many communities offer a positive alternative to punitive/retributive principles, and

WHEREAS this movement offers opportunities for the pain of victims to be heard and addressed; expects offenders to take responsibility for the harm they have caused; and, when possible, brings together victim, offender, and community members to form an agreement about how amends can be made, and

WHEREAS this movement offers a redemptive path to a productive and acceptable role in society for the offender as opposed to joining a growing body of permanent outcasts, and

WHEREAS participants in these community-based processes find them to be energizing, empowering, and healing, giving victim and offender a sense of ownership in the resolution of their own conflict and giving community members a greater sense of hope and possibility,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon Justice and Witness Ministries and its Criminal Justice and Human Rights Staff to develop and promote an educational campaign that sets forth restorative justice principles as well as examples of:

• where and how the principles have become working expressions within the life of local churches

• where and how they have become ministries and missions within the broader community

• where and how churches and larger judicatories have succeeded in affecting public policy, laws, and institutional change in the judicial system

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the goal of this educational effort is to create and facilitate a social transformation through effective advocacy that leads to public, private, and faith programs that more nearly express justice for all people of every class, race, and gender and brings shalom to our communities,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Synod call on all churches, associations, and conferences to actively promote these goals.

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

Resolution of witness. Requires a two-thirds vote for passage.
OPPOSITION TO THE SIECUS DECLARATION—RESOLUTION #1

WHEREAS the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, the Rev. John Thomas, acting on behalf of the General Synod, signed the SIECUS document called the “Religious Declaration on Sexual Morality, Justice, and Healing,” and

WHEREAS this declaration calls for the blessing of same sex unions, and

WHEREAS this declaration affirms the ordination of sexual minorities (homosexuals, bisexuals, and transgender persons), and

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

- Opposes the signing of the SIECUS Declaration by the Rev. John Thomas
- Requests that the Rev. John Thomas retract his action taken on behalf of the United Church of Christ
- Disavows itself from this declaration and its stated positions

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

Prudential resolution. Requires majority vote for passage.
OPPOSITION TO THE SIECUS DECLARATION—RESOLUTION #2

WHEREAS the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, the Rev. John Thomas, acting on behalf of the General Synod, signed the SIECUS document called the “Religious Declaration on Sexual Morality, Justice, and Healing,” and

WHEREAS the SIECUS Declaration supports abortion on demand, and

WHEREAS forty million babies have been aborted in the United States since 1973, and

WHEREAS ninety-five percent of these abortions are for the purpose of birth control, and

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ has supported abortion, including partial-birth abortions,

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

- Upholds the sanctity of life in the womb
- Promotes a pro-life position where abortion is outlawed except for rape and incest, abnormalities of the unborn, and extreme health risks to the mother
- Condemns the practice of partial-birth abortions
- Calls upon the Rev. John Thomas to withdraw his support of the SIECUS Declaration, which allows for abortion on demand

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

Resolution of witness. Requires a two-thirds vote for passage.
DECLARE JUBILEE: A CALL FOR A NEW DAY OF UNITY IN THE SPIRIT
FOR THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WHEREAS the Biblical Declaration of Jubilee liberated God's people from the obligations and debts of the past to renewed freedom in Covenant and Worship, and

WHEREAS through the gift of restructuring the United Church of Christ is now in the dawn of a new day in our life together, and

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ was called into existence in order that “all may be one,” coming together “in order to express more fully the oneness in Christ of the churches composing it, to make more effective their common witness in Him, and to serve His kingdom in the world” (Preamble to the Constitution of the United Church of Christ), and

WHEREAS many resolutions and actions of our previous General Synods were taken in response to cultural and social conditions of the time, and

WHEREAS some resolutions and actions of General Synod have generated contention rather than celebration, division rather than unity, and alienation rather than mission,

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod, the first General Synod of our new United Church of Christ, meeting in Kansas City, declare a Jubilee, laying aside the actions and resolutions of all previous General Synods in order to liberate the church to live its new beginning, while fully appreciating the witness each Synod gave to their own moment in history.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod call the whole church to a renewal of our unity in Christ on no other basis than our bond of peace which makes us “one body with one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is over all and through all and in all” (Ephesians 4:3–4).

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

Prudential resolution. Requires majority vote for passage.
NEWS MEDIA GUIDELINES RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ has continually sought to recognize and respect the right of minorities; and

WHEREAS the personal faith of some of our sisters and brothers in the United Church of Christ does not allow them to support all of the actions of General Synod; and

WHEREAS news media reports in the past have often led to a perception on the part of the reader that the General Synod speaks for the United Church of Christ, thus causing anguish for some members of the United Church of Christ; and

WHEREAS the General Synod seeks at all times to carry out its covenantal responsibilities for the members, churches, Associations and Conferences of the United Church of Christ; and

WHEREAS in carrying out its covenantal responsibilities, the General Synod, as with all the settings, agencies, and leaders of the United Church of Christ speaks only in an advisory/prophetic role to the United Church of Christ.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-third General Synod of the United Church of Christ requests that official press reports of the actions of General Synod always include the sentence, “The General Synod of the United Church of Christ speaks only to, but not for, the United Church of Christ and its members.”

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

Prudential resolution. Requires majority vote for passage.
WHEREAS the United Church of Christ acknowledges as its sole head Jesus Christ, Son of God and Savior, and it acknowledges as kindred in Christ all who share in this confession. It looks to the Word of God in the scriptures, and to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, to prosper its creative and redemptive work in the world. It claims as its own the faith of the historic Church expressed in the ancient creeds and reclaims in the basic insights of the Protestant Reformers, and

WHEREAS in the United Church of Christ we are committed to be united and uniting as evidenced by our ecumenical relationships and partnerships with denominations in this country and around the world who share our profound belief in the trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; salvation through the atonement and resurrection of Jesus Christ; and the central role of the Bible and the great ecumenical creeds in our life together, and

WHEREAS these relationships should be held in honor and should shape our life in the context of the universal communion of the saints, and

WHEREAS some of our actions, pronouncements, and positions as a Synod and denomination have caused consternation, doubt, and tension in these ecumenical relations, and

WHEREAS we would appear to have actively engaged in more intentional cooperation and joint projects with the Unitarian Universalist Association than with most of our covenanted ecumenical partners, and

WHEREAS this engagement is one of the actions that threatens our unity with our ecumenical partners, and

WHEREAS the Unitarian Universalist Association promotes a religion, which is neither self-defined nor generally recognized to be Christian, nor does it affirm those beliefs and ecumenical creeds which form the foundation of our ecumenism, and

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ has never entered by formal consent of Synod into a covenant relationship with the Unitarian Universalist Association,

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED by the Twenty-third General Synod meeting in Kansas City, Missouri, that all projects, publications, proclamations, and agencies that have been jointly engaged in with the Unitarian Universalist Association be suspended, pending a prayerful study by our local United Church of Christ churches of the history and theological appropriateness of this relationship as well as the projects, publications, and proclamations that have emanated from it.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a report of the study and response from the local churches be reported to the Twenty-fourth General Synod in 2003 for further action.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all resources and personnel currently involved in joint projects with the Unitarian Universalist Association be redirected to building efforts of mutual cooperation with those denominations and fellowships with whom we are in covenanted relationships.

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

Prudential resolution. Requires majority vote for passage.
# APPENDIX D
## OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF COUNCILS AND BOARDS ELECTED AT THE TWENTY-THIRD GENERAL SYNOD

In order to identify all nominees within the required categories, one or more of the following code numbers immediately follows the name of each nominee:

- Clergywoman 1A  
- Laywoman 2  
- Minority (any) 4  
- Clergyman 1B  
- Layman 3  
- Under 30 5  

### General Minister and President

Four-Year Term  
John H. Thomas 1B (Ohio)

### Executive Minister — Local Church Ministries

Four-Year Term  
José A. Malayang 1B/4 (Ohio)

### Moderator

Two-Year Term  
Nathaniel Lewis 3/4 (CANV)

### Assistant Moderators

Two-Year Term  
Christine Smith 1A (MINN)  
Carol Wassmuth 2 (IOWA)

### Executive Council

**Class of 2007**  
Eduardo Capillar 1B/4 (NOPL)  
Laura Donaldson 2 (NY)  
Juan M. Pacheco Guad 3/4 (PR)  
Megan Hoelle 2/5 (CPC)  
Jeremy Hylen 3/5 (MICH)  
Peter Lin 3/4 (WASH)  
Sharon MacArthur 2/4 (CANVN)  
Kathy Plumb 2 (MINN)  
Bela Poznan 1B (CASY)  
Robert Sandman 3/4 (OH)  
Lori Souder 1A (SW)  
Carol Spangenberg 2 (PNE)  
Ray Young 3 (MONT-N.WY)

**Class of 2005**  
Marshall Eckblad 3 (WIS)  
Aaron Gould 3 (ME)

**Class of 2003**  
Jennifer Craig 2 (MASS)  
James E. Fouther Jr. 1B/4 (FLA)  
Jennifer Moss 1A (SE)

### Groups

- Peggy Bronson 2/4 (UCCDM)  
- Brian Cope 1B (CE)  
- Hector Franco 3/4/5 (CYYAM)  
- Sandra Hulse 1A (UCF)  
- Richard McBride 1B (CHE)

### Justice and Witness Ministries

**Class of 2007**  
Elena Barrantes 2/4/5 (ME)  
Howard B. Brown Jr. 3/4 (CONN)  
Gary Chapman 1B (IOWA)  
David Claypool 3/5 (RM)  
Daryl Cruz 3/4/5 (PSE)  
Sandra Gadsden 2/4 (FLA)  
Amber Hodges 2/5 (KO)  
Gregory Jones 1B/4 (IK)  
Valentino Lassiter 1B/5 (OH)  
Rosemary Santos 2/4 (RI)  
Melisa Topeke 2/5 (NOPL)  
Elizabeth Zaborowski 2/5 (SW)

**Class of 2005**  
Kathy Ellsworth 2 (WASH)  
Julio Figueroa 3/4 (PR)  
Charles Johnson 3/4 (VT)  
Eric Maurer 3 (SE)

**Class of 2003**  
Paul Bryant-Smith 1B (PNE)  
Martha Dayag 2/4 (HI)  
Bert Martin 3 (MINN)  
Vilma Thompson 2/4 (MASS)

### Groups

- Billie Louise Bentzen 2 (UCCDM)  
- Joan Brannick 2 (PB)  
- Christina Castro 2/4/5 (At-Large Youth)  
- Susan Davies 1A (Seminaries)  
- Norma Ellington-Twitty 2/4 (CCDOC)  
- Yvette Flunder 1A/4 (MRSEJ)  
- Stacy Kullgren 2/5 (CYYAM)

### Local Church Ministries

**Class of 2007**  
Rich Fluechtling 3 (WISC)  
Jean Johnson 2 (CPC)  
Krista Keising 2 (PSE)  
Gloria Little 2/4 (MINN)  
Jill Marie 2 (PW)  
Linda Martin 2 (NEB)  
Rhonda Myers 2/4 (VT)  
Mary Pope 2/4 (SOC)  
Jessica Roberts 2/5 (IOWA)
Lisa Tait 1A/4 (SE)
Angel Toro 1B/4 (FLA)
Jean Wade 2 (RM)

Class of 2005
Diane Bennekomper 1A (ME)
Tom Gough 1B (MONT)
David Murata 3/4 (HI)
Atanasio Osphaldo 1B/5 (SD)

Class of 2003
Jason Henderson 3/4/5 (NH)
Sandra Shipman 2 (PC)

Groups
Don Barnes 3 (PB)
Cheryl Cramer 2/4 (UBC)
W. Dow Edgerton 1/B (Seminaries)
Janice Hale 2/4 (CCDOC)
Larry Johnson 1B/4 (CHE)
Mary Lambrecht 2/5 (At-large Youth)
LiErin Probasco 2/5 (CYYAM)
Alfonso Román 1B/4 (CHM)
Michael Simon 3/4/5 (PAAM)

Wider Church Ministries

Class of 2007
Ruth V. Beckman 2 (RI)
Clinton Cannon 3 (WASH)
Jean Doane 2 (CPC)
Anita Fussell 2 (NEB)
Alicia Gian 2/4/5 (KS)
Deann Hesker 2/5 (ILS)
Margaret Jacoby 2 (CANVS)
Barbara Pence 1A/5 (PSE)
Aniko Szucs 2 (CASY)
Amanda Wright 2/5 (IK)

Class of 2005
Ruth Brandon 1A (MASS)
Hazel Moore 2/4 (SC)
Mary Ann Neevel 1A (WIS)

Class of 2003
Robert Bottoms 1B (IL)
Thomas M. Brooke 3 (SOC)
John Millen 3 (PW)
Ramon Miranda 3 (PR)
Loraine A. Tuenge 1A (FLA)

Groups
Emily Barrows 2/5 (At-large Youth)
Diane Christopherson 1A (Coalition)
Martha Cruz 1A/4 (PB)
Robbie Gilchrist 3/5 (CYYAM)
Bill Land 1B/4 (MRSEJ)
Christy Newton 1A/5 (CCDOC)
Jerry Northrup 3/4 (At-Large)
Bryan Sickbert 1B (CHHSM)
Marilyn Stavenger 1A (Seminaries)

Key: Clergywoman = 1A; Clergyman = 1B; Laywoman = 2; Layman = 3; Minority (any) = 4; Under 30 = 5
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