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

Approved As Amended

A Resolution of Witness

TEXT OF THE MOTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon Wider Church Ministries and Justice and Witness Ministries to serve as a resource of information and an active support network, and to provide primary and secondary levels of intervention for advocacy regarding the on-going struggle of our Honduran brothers and sisters; and
LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Twenty-ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon our ecumenical partners to advocate for peace and justice and human rights in Honduras; and

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

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

**FUNDING**

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

**IMPLEMENTATION**

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