

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.