

03-GS-14 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod adopts the resolution
“Dialogue with Alliance of Baptists: A Partnership in Mission and Ministry.

**DIALOGUE WITH ALLIANCE OF BAPTISTS: A PARTNERSHIP
IN MISSION AND MINISTRY**

WHEREAS, ecumenical relationships are realized in the commitments that friends and partners make to each other for support, assistance and mutual counsel; and

WHEREAS, we look forward to expanding and strengthening an evolved ecumenical relationship of deepening friendship, continuing dialogue, and joint public witness with the Alliance of Baptists and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ cherishes its ecumenical relationships and seeks to implement them in as many settings of the life of the church as possible.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the United Church of Christ commit itself to an ecumenical relationship of deepening friendship, continuing dialogue, and joint public witness, by establishing a Partnership in Mission and Ministry with the Alliance of Baptists and in continuing partnership with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Synod encourage the United Church of Christ’s Covenanted Ministries, Associated and Affiliated Ministries, Associations and Conferences to consider what this partnership might mean in their roles and responsibilities in relation to participation by congregations, clergy, and church staff affiliated with the Alliance of Baptists; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Synod encourage congregations, clergy and church staff of the United Church of Christ to develop and deepen this ecumenical friendship by pursuing opportunities for worship, fellowship, collaboration, sharing of resources, and mutual support with neighbors in the Alliance of Baptists, and wherever possible in partnership with the Disciples; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Synod encourage conversation between the Alliance of Baptists and the Disciples–United Church of Christ Common Global Ministries Board to discern where the ministry of all might be enhanced by cooperation and collaboration; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Synod encourage the seminaries and other settings of the church, where teaching of history and polity occurs, to include information about the Alliance of Baptists in order to deepen understanding of the faithful witness and ministry of the Alliance as a new ecumenical partner and also encourage the development of programs of Baptist studies; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Synod encourage, as part of the partnership with the Alliance of Baptists and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the continuation of theological conversation on matters of ministry, sacramental life, theology, and polity throughout the life of the church; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Synod encourage all settings of the United Church of Christ to invite participation by the Alliance of Baptists, as with other ecumenical partners, in national and regional events; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Synod encourage leaders in the United Church of Christ to seek to make common public witness with leaders of the Alliance of Baptists, with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and with other ecumenical colleagues on issues of national and international concern and collaborate wherever possible on works of public witness and justice-making; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Synod, in recognition of a deeply shared commitment to children and to the growth of our churches, encourage the United Church of Christ to share and, where possible, collaborate with the Alliance of Baptists in the development of educational resources for children and youth and share opportunities for mission, outdoor camp experiences, education, and the fellowship events for children and youth of the Alliance, in partnership with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); and

LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED, that the General Minister and President name United Church of Christ representatives to an ongoing partnership council to facilitate and encourage the growth of this Partnership in Mission and Ministry among the United Church of Christ, the Alliance of Baptists, and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).