

03-GS-27 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod adopts the resolution as amended, "In Honor of Senator Paul Wellstone."

IN HONOR OF SENATOR PAUL WELLSTONE

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has declared itself a just peace church, and many local churches have declared themselves just peace churches; and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ acknowledges the void, in his absence, of an equivalent impassioned, tireless advocate for the moral missions that Senator Wellstone represented; and

WHEREAS, Senator Wellstone spoke tirelessly and passionately, again and again, over and over, on the Senate floor for actions and issues related directly to the lives of those with little or no voice in this democracy and who are often left out of our society time and time again; and

WHEREAS, Senator Wellstone was a role model for the United Church of Christ's vision that the basis of true democracy is grassroots participation of citizens from the local level working to impact national issues of peace and justice; and

WHEREAS, Senator Wellstone and the United Church of Christ share the belief that grassroots democracy is the best policy for this country; and

WHEREAS, Senator Wellstone was continually accessible for gatherings with the United Church of Christ on peace and justice concerns. Wellstone was a key participant in the debate as to where politics should be going, forever upholding high standards for the moral obligations of politicians as public servants; and

WHEREAS, Senator Wellstone pressed for campaign finances reform so that our country would become a true democracy; and

WHEREAS, Senator Wellstone and his wife Sheila, were recognized as national leaders on domestic violence and fought fervently to educate the populace and diminish the occurrence of domestic violence in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in fall 2002 Senator Wellstone voted against giving the President of the United States authorization to declare war on the country of Iraq; and

WHEREAS, Senator Wellstone fought to enact into law measures to improve the living conditions of hundreds of thousands of American veterans and was an unremitting advocate for the rights of the disabled; and

WHEREAS, Senator Wellstone fought to protect the environment through brownfield

cleanup, as well as conservation and renewable-energy measures and incentives for farmers, ranchers, and small businesses; and

WHEREAS, Senator Wellstone fought for worker-safety rights, increased worker training, and citizen health care security.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Twenty-fourth General Synod of the United Church of Christ expresses its great appreciation for the outstanding contributions of Senator Paul Wellstone to peace and social justice and for the leadership he provided to legislation that fulfilled our denomination's commitment to living out God's vision of shalom; and

LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Twenty-fourth General Synod of the United Church of Christ direct President and General Minister John Thomas to communicate this action to Senator Wellstone's family.

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