

09-GS-44 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod adopts the resolution “An Urgent Call for Advocacy in Support of Health Care for All, as in H.R. 676.

AN URGENT CALL FOR ADVOCACY IN SUPPORT OF HEALTH CARE FOR ALL, AS IN H.R. 676

BE IT RESOLVED that: Based on our belief that health care is not only a basic human NEED but also a basic human RIGHT and our belief that it is a moral imperative to transform health care so that it is: inclusive, accessible, affordable and accountable, the Twenty-seventh General Synod calls upon the United Church of Christ in all its settings to act with urgency to:

--affirm its support for universal health care which meets the following criteria: 1) it covers all persons; 2) it presents no financial barriers; 3) it provides comprehensive benefits; 4) it offers a choice of physicians and other health providers; and 5) it eliminates racial, ethnic and all other disparities for health care.

-- advocate for and support legislation to be passed by the fall of 2009 by the 111th congress which meets these criteria.

Endorse and support a national health insurance program such as the proposal found in Congressman Conyers’ legislation, H.R. 676, “Expanded and Improved Medicare for All” or a public health option as long as such legislation meets the above criteria. Pursue interfaith and ecumenical cooperation with the goal of immediately obtaining passage of H.R. 676 or such legislation as meets our criteria by the fall of 2009 by the 111th Congress and its signing by the President of the United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution calls church and community to new and increased levels of attention, commitment and action. We encourage the United Church of Christ in all its settings to work with COREM, JWM, LCM and other United Church of Christ health-related organizations to:

-- disseminate information and call upon participants of the Twenty-seventh General Synod, members and congregations to contact their members of Congress and the President of the United States urging them to fully support H.R. 676 or such legislation as meets our criteria.

-- form task forces focused on healthcare in each conference to provide information and urge action to support public health insurance..

--organize and plan discussion forums using the PBS documentary and study guide *Unnatural Causes...is inequality making us sick?* To learn about and/or better understand the implications of health disparities and inequities on the health of the public and to raise awareness about the extent and cost of health inequalities.

FUNDING

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

IMPLEMENTATION

The Twenty-seventh General Synod calls upon Justice and Witness Ministries in concert with other affected programs and agencies to work to develop the strategy and program to implement this resolution.