

GENERAL SYNOD OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

GENERAL SYNOD 34

JUNE 30-JULY 4, 2023

RESOLUTION REPORT

Resolution 21-GS-48 Hawaiian Kingdom

A Resolution Encouraging to End 128 Years of War Between the United States of America and the Hawaiian Kingdom

Report Submitted By: Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer, General Minister & President

The action items called for in the Resolution are as follows:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Thirty-Third General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon all settings of the church, denomination officers, conferences, associations, and congregations to live into the 1993 Apology of the United Church of Christ delivered to the Native Hawaiian People by President Paul Sherry;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon the United Church of Christ's General Counsel's office to listen to and consider recommendations from the Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches, other Native Hawaiian organizations, and Native Hawaiian voices drafting communications to local, national and international leaders and organizations calling for compliance with international humanitarian law and an end to the illegal occupation of the Hawaiian islands;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Thirty-Third General Synod of the United Church of Christ reaffirm its commitment to stand alongside and in support of the efforts of Native Hawaiians to seek redress and restitution for the war crimes of the US against the Hawaiian Kingdom including, but not limited to, the crime of denationalization;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the United Church of Christ Board will provide the Thirty-Fourth General Synod of the United Church of Christ with a written and oral update on the progress on the implementation of this resolution.

Here are the actions taken by the denomination officers in response to the first item:

Several calls with AHEC leaders were made early in the year to arrange what became two listening sessions to hear the deep history of the native Hawaiian communities, the blatant racism experienced throughout the history of the island following the arrival of European settlers and missionaries, to speak about how that pain can be acknowledged, and to test pathways to resolving that pain and injustice. Two extended listening sessions were arranged with the Elected Officers and Board leaders present.

Regarding the second item from the resolution, this provision was drafted without input from the Office of General Counsel or the Office of General Minister & President, which oversees the Office of General Counsel. These activities are both outside of the scope of the General Counsel's role and inconsistent with rules of professional conduct under the law of the state of Ohio, relating to the attorney-client relationship and professional competency. She was not able to draft communications to local churches, national and international leaders and organizations calling for compliance with international humanitarian law and an end to the illegal occupation of the Hawaiian Islands. These are matters outside of the General Counsel's scope of practice. This was communicated to AHEC shortly after the resolution was adopted. No such letter went forth from the Office of General Counsel.

Those are all the action items requested by the Resolution – and a full report of all matters regarding compliance with those requests for which the UCCB has the responsibility for compliance and the authority to report.