

**GENERAL SYNOD OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISPOSITION**

On March 7, 2025, the United Church of Christ Board, sitting as the Committee on Disposition of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ pursuant to United Church of Christ Bylaw 213, voted:

- To amend the Report of the Subcommittee on Disposition to change the disposition of the resolution THE SMALL TOWN AND RURAL COALITION OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST REQUESTS TO BE RECOGNIZED AS A FORMAL GROUP to “Committee of the General Synod.”
- To adopt the Report of the Subcommittee on Disposition, as amended.

The original report of the Subcommittee on Disposition is attached.

Report from the Subcommittee on Disposition

Our report with recommendations and all the submitted resolutions appears in BoardEffect under Subcommittee on Disposition.

In recommending these dispositions we relied on criteria set forth in the General Synod Standing Rules. These include definitions of Resolutions of Witness and Prudential Resolution, as well as criteria for determining how General Synod should address a resolution. We could not consider the merits or issues of resolutions, and instead worked to ensure that the resolutions adhered to the criteria set forth in the General Synod Standing Rules.

Eight resolutions and one other motion were received by the December 31st deadline. We recommend designating three resolutions as Prudential Resolutions, which require a majority vote for adoption, and five resolutions as Resolutions of Witness, which require a 2/3 majority vote for adoption. The one other motion only requires a majority vote.

We recommend seven of the resolutions be referred to committees of the General Synod.

We recommend the other formal motion go directly to a plenary session, which is the request of the four existing Pennsylvania conferences to merge. We do not think it will be controversial, and furthermore it cannot be edited by a committee or by the General Synod.

We recommend one Prudential Resolution go to the UCC Board of Directors, the one that would include the Small Town and Rural (STAR) Coalition in the Bylaws. This would allow the Board to have a broader conversation about the implications of various groups asking for inclusion in the denomination's governing documents.

One resolution was rejected due to being submitted after the December 31st deadline. The submitters (CAIM) are already in conversation amongst themselves and with the national setting about how to address their concerns by different means.

Resolutions may still be submitted up until the start of General Synod if the topic they address could not have been anticipated by the December 31st deadline. If any resolutions are submitted between now and the start of Synod, we will consider them and report our recommendation to the Board at either their June meeting before Synod or immediately following the opening plenary of Synod.

The Subcommittee on Disposition moves:

The United Church of Christ Board, sitting as the General Synod Committee on Disposition, adopts the Report of the Subcommittee on Disposition.

1 **Motion from the Subcommittee on Disposition**

2 February 27, 2025

3

4 The Subcommittee on Disposition moves:

5 **The United Church of Christ Board, sitting as the General Synod Committee on**
 6 **Disposition, adopts the Report of the Subcommittee on Disposition.**

7

8 Report of the Subcommittee on Disposition

9 The Subcommittee on Disposition recommends:

10

11 The United Church of Christ Board, sitting as the General Synod Committee on Disposition,
 12 receives the items of business submitted to the Thirty-Fifth General Synod and recommends
 13 disposition as follows:

14

15 **Other formal motion:**

Designation	Short Title	Full Title	Submitter	Recommendation
<i>UCCB-25-03-SoD-01a</i>	Keystone	MOTION OF PENN WEST, PENN CENTRAL, PENNSYLVANIA SOUTHEAST AND PENN NORTHEAST CONFERENCES TO JOIN TOGETHER TO FORM THE KEYSTONE CONFERENCE	Penn West, Penn Central, Penn NE, and Penn SE Conferences	Plenary session of the General Synod*

16

17 **Resolutions:**

Designation	Short Title	Full Title	Submitter	Prudential or Witness	SoD Recommendation
<i>UCCB-25-03-SoD-01b</i>	Philippines	A DECLARATION OF SUPPORT FOR PHILIPPINE HUMAN RIGHTS	Central Pacific Conference	Witness	Committee of the General Synod
<i>UCCB-25-03-SoD-01c</i>	Germany	RESOLUTION ON FULL COMMUNION RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AND EVANGELISCHE KIRCHE IN DEUTSCHLAND	UCC Board	Prudential	Committee of the General Synod

UCCB-25-03-SoD-01 Report of the Subcommittee on Disposition

<i>UCCB-25-03-SoD-01d</i>	Puerto Rico	RESOLUTION ON FULL COMMUNION RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AND IGLESIA EVANGÉLICA UNIDA DE PUERTO RICO	UCC Board	Prudential	Committee of the General Synod
<i>UCCB-25-03-SoD-01e</i>	STAR Coalition	THE SMALL TOWN AND RURAL COALITION OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST REQUESTS TO BE RECOGNIZED AS A FORMAL GROUP	Illinois, Iowa, Kansas-Oklahoma, Montana Northern-Wyoming, Nebraska, Penn Central, Penn Northeast, and South Dakota Conferences	Prudential	United Church of Christ Board*
<i>UCCB-25-03-SoD-01f</i>	OWL	FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP OF OUR WHOLE LIVES AND ADVOCACY FOR COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION IN FAITH COMMUNITIES THROUGH INTERFAITH COLLABORATION	Delegates and the Illinois Conference	Witness	Committee of the General Synod
<i>UCCB-25-03-SoD-01g</i>	Psychedelics	ECUMENICAL ENGAGEMENT AND FAITHFUL SUPPORT FOR THE DECRIMINALIZATION OF ENTHEOGENIC AND PSYCHEDELIC MEDICINES	Michigan Conference	Witness	Committee of the General Synod
<i>UCCB-25-03-SoD-01h</i>	Mental Health	RECOGNITION OF THE CONTINUALLY-EVOLVING	Mental Health Network	Witness	Committee of the General Synod

		LANGUAGE OF MENTAL HEALTH			
<i>UCCB-25-03-SoD-01i</i>	India	A RESPONSE TO CHRISTIAN PERSECUTION IN INDIA	New York Conference	Witness	Committee of the General Synod
<i>UCCB-25-03-SoD-01j</i>	CAIM	ESTABLISHMENT OF A TASK FORCE FOR THE RESTORATION OF LAND AND REPARATIONS FOR NATIVE PEOPLES	CAIM	Prudential	Rejection due to missed deadline

18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51

*David Ackerman abstained from these votes

---End of Motion---

Background: From the General Synod 36 Standing Rules

Disposition Options:

- Committee: A Resolution that is complicated or controversial that requires background discussion and study, merits a hearing process, or has a potential system-wide impact will be assigned to a Committee. If this disposition is recommended, the Submitter provides a Proponent to the Committee.
- Direct to Plenary: Resolutions that are expected to be routine, non-controversial, or dealt with in a special hearing are assigned directly to a Plenary session.
- Direct to Plenary, Consent Agenda: The Business Committee may place some Resolutions sent directly to Plenary in a Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda is approved by Delegates in the opening plenary of the General Synod. The Proponent of a Resolution placed on the Consent Agenda has two minutes to speak to their Resolution before the Consent Agenda is moved. Items are removed from the Consent Agenda by a majority vote of the General Synod. If a Resolution is removed from the Consent Agenda, it is assigned to a Committee or considered in a Plenary session of the General Synod at the discretion of the Agenda Committee.
- The United Church of Christ Board: A Resolution that is deemed by the Subcommittee on Disposition to have system-wide impact beyond the scope of the General Synod or requiring additional study by the United Church of Christ Board or staff is referred directly to the United Church of Christ Board. A Resolution submitted by the United Church of Christ Board shall not be referred directly to the Board. The standards for adoption by the Board shall be the same as those required for adoption by the General Synod.
- Direct to Implementing Bodies: A Resolution that reiterates or reaffirms previous General Synod action is normally referred by the General Synod to the body or bodies implementing such action. A Resolution on an issue voted on by either of the two preceding General Synods shall be referred to implementing bodies. A referral for implementation is, in itself, a statement that the General Synod is already on record with

52 the intent of the Resolution and that the policy base for implementation is already in
53 existence.

- 54 • Rejection: Any Resolution that is submitted after the deadlines herein or is inconsistent or
55 conflicts directly with the United Church of Christ Constitution or Bylaws will be
56 rejected.

57

58 **Definitions:**

- 59 • Resolution of Witness: A Resolution of Witness is an expression of Christian conviction
60 concerning a moral, ethical, or religious matter confronting the Church, the nation, or the
61 world. It is adopted for the guidance of the United Church of Christ Board, Officers, or
62 Covenanted Ministries; or for the consideration of other bodies related to the United
63 Church of Christ, such as Local Churches, Associations, Conferences, and Associated or
64 Affiliated Ministries or other bodies as defined in Article VI of the Bylaws of the United
65 Church of Christ; and for a Christian witness to the world. Adoption of a Resolution of
66 Witness requires a two-thirds majority vote of the General Synod.

- 67 • Prudential Resolutions: A Prudential Resolution establishes policy, institutes or revises
68 structure or procedures, authorizes programs, approves directions, or requests actions.
69 Adoption of a Prudential Resolution requires a majority vote of the General Synod.