

GENERAL SYNOD 2009 RESOLUTION

A CALL TO BE GLOBAL MISSION CHURCHES IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WHEREAS, throughout the past two centuries, for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ, global presence and witness have been at the core of God's mission through the church; and

WHEREAS, since 1996 Global Ministries has been a common witness of the Division of Overseas Ministries, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and of Wider Church Ministries, United Church of Christ, an ecumenical endeavor unique among American Protestant denominations which today continues to walk with 270 global partners in some 68 countries discerning together priorities of critical presence and action with the sole purpose of timely and appropriately meeting God's people and creation at the point of deepest need: spiritually, physically, emotionally and/or economically; and

WHEREAS, in keeping with the critical presence priority, over 150 persons in mission are currently serving as missionaries, volunteers, interns and associates in 50 countries, and missionaries sent by our global partners are welcomed to serve in the United States and Canada in fulfillment of our commitment to mutuality in mission; and

WHEREAS, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ, in a joint effort with various ecumenical initiatives in the United States and Canada and others throughout the world including the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA and the World Council of Churches, continue to seek ways to respond to God's people and creation who are in need of wholeness and transformation, calling us to renew our commitment to God's mission of reconciliation and unity which is both local and global; and

WHEREAS, both denominations were founders of and still actively participate in bringing leadership to the ecumenical service organizations known as Church World Service and Action by Churches Together, providing sustainable self-help and development, disaster relief, and refugee assistance in some 80 countries; and

WHEREAS, a local church engaged in ministry globally is a vital and faithful church, one that is dynamic and growing in strong local and global relationships, bringing abundant blessings, creating understanding and building communities of justice and service; and

WHEREAS, Global Ministries seeks to facilitate the engagement of local churches and other settings of the church more intentionally in global mission; and

WHEREAS, God's call to mission is already embodied and celebrated in all settings of the church in myriad expressions of relationship, service, mission presence, justice witness, worship and advocacy; and

WHEREAS, partnership means receiving the gifts and learning from the experiences of others in our world, building greater effectiveness through collective efforts and mutually recognizing and encouraging each other in ministry;

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Twenty-seventh General Synod, meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan, June 26-30, 2009, promotes and encourages all settings of the church to claim and implement the Global Mission Church designation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-seventh General Synod invites all settings of the United Church of Christ—National, Conferences, Associations and local churches, and all age groups of the church, especially youth and young adults to utilize assessment and implementation resources, such as *Be a Global Mission Church*; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Twenty-seventh General Synod declares itself a “Global Mission Church,” and recognizes such designation as one of the priorities of the church; and, furthermore, the Twenty-seventh General Synod encourages all settings of the United Church of Christ to claim the identity of being a Global Mission Church.

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

Local churches, Associations and Conferences of the United Church of Christ, The Office of General Ministries, Wider Church Ministries, Justice & Witness Ministries and Local Church Ministries are requested to implement this resolution.