



July 2, 2017

A Declaration of Dependence

The summer months in these United States of America have a strong spirit of independence. Vacations, camping, the open road, cookouts; all seem to speak to the great American ideal of freedom and individuality. The zenith of this season is, of course, our national holiday, our nation's birthday, which is appropriately called Independence Day. We hold firm to that original declaration, pointed at George III and Great Britain and anyone else who believes that they control our destiny; we depend on no one except ourselves.

I think we all understand the intentions of our foremothers and forefathers who, while flawed in many ways, captured the spirit that makes this nation great. Independence is a wonderful ideal. In our most honest moments however, especially in this modern, global society, we must admit that we are linked and connected to one another. Dr. Martin King perhaps said it best:

"We must all learn to live together as brothers or we will all perish together as fools. We are tied together in the single garment of destiny, caught in an inescapable network of mutuality. And whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly. For some strange reason I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be. This is the way God's universe is made; this is the way it is structured."

The Paris Climate Agreement is a declaration of dependence. We share this one planet, and how any one of us treat it will affect all us in the long run. We depend on one another. But not just one another. Psalm 62:5 is also a declaration of dependence; *I depend on God alone; I put my hope in him.* (GNT) No matter how much we value our independence, let us not forget to value our interdependence; on one another and on God!

- Rev. Cean James, Associate Conference Minister
for Congregational Development

About General Synod 2017

Baltimore, MD

June 30—July 4



See what is happening at General Synod.

Plenary sessions are "live" !

Every two years, General Synod brings together thousands of faithful members of the United Church of Christ for formal church witness, inspirational worship, and fellowship with friends (new and old).

Over the past couple of days, thousands from across the country (and abroad) have been gathered for General Synod 2017 at the Baltimore Convention Center in Baltimore, Maryland. Together, they have discerned resolutions of witness, church structure, and function. They have stood up for issues that demand a faithful witness. And have joined together in worship each day to lift up the Stillspeaking God.

If you are unable to attend General Synod in person, but are interested in the business taking place, you too can be a part of what is happening in Baltimore.

Using Google Chrome (do not use Internet explorer) go to : <http://synod.uccpages.org/> and click on the LIVE Tab to watch the Plenary sessions as they happen. At this site you will also find a detailed agenda of Plenary sessions, Resolutions and Formal Motions submitted for consideration, proposed amendments to the Constitution and By-laws, reports and more.

Be a part of General Synod from the comfort of your own home.

The next scheduled Plenary session will take place tonight at 7:00 pm. This will be the third of eight scheduled Plenary sessions.