

General Synod 33, the first entirely online week-long national gathering, closed with worship on Sunday, July 18. We are grateful for our PSEC delegates (named below) who represented our Conference faithfully (half of the PSEC delegation gathered at the Doubletree in Reading, PA for the last three days of Synod during the business heavy portion of the meeting) and lent their voices to budget discussions, the nomination and election of Associate General Minister Traci Blackmon and debates on eleven resolutions (a summary of, and a link to, each follows below). General Synod business ended with an invitation from the members of the Indiana-Kentucky Conference to the next General Synod in Indianapolis scheduled for the summer of 2023.

Our PSEC Conference delegation met several times in advance of General Synod to become familiar with Synod business and the eleven resolutions that came to the floor for deliberation. They have continued to meet after General Synod to discern how to share information about their experiences and the ways that the resolutions speak to our local ministry settings. They've also considered what resolution our Conference might author to speak to the church.

General Synod speaks to and for local churches. However, our United Church of Christ is grounded in covenantal relationships and therefore conferences and local churches are encouraged to consider seriously Synod resolutions for their own education and action.

The following is a list of those Resolutions and links to articles from the UCC website:

Declaration For A Just Peace Between Palestine And Israel. There was much discussion about the wording of this resolution. The originators of the resolution were clear in wanting to name that the oppression of the Palestinian people by the government of Israel was apartheid. They were also clear that this was not a statement against Jewish people. The article from the UCC News provides more information, as well as the statement by the UCC Officers: [https://www.ucc.org/synod-delegates-approve-resolution-decrying-oppression-of-palestinian-people/](https://www.ucc.org/synod-delegates-approve-resolution-decriing-oppression-of-palestinian-people/). <https://www.ucc.org/ucc-officers-speak-to-just-peace-declaration-affirmed-by-gs/>

A Resolution To Advocate And Act To Change The Cash Bail Bond System To Eliminate Racial And Social Injustices Inherent In The Present System. <https://www.ucc.org/synod-delegates-affirm-resolution-calling-for-cash-bail-system-reform/>

A Resolution To Ban The Practice Of Conversion Therapy. <https://www.ucc.org/synod-delegates-deplore-conversion-therapy-call-for-its-ban>

A Commitment To Gender Safety & Equity In Ministry Settings. <https://www.ucc.org/synod-resolves-to-address-gender-safety-and-equity/>

A Resolution To Declare And Respond To Racism As A Public Health Crisis. This was sponsored by the Council of Health and Human Ministries who have already created a curriculum to assist churches. www.ucc.org/addressing-racism-as-a-public-health-crisis/

A Resolution Encouraging To End 128 Years Of War Between The United States Of America And The Hawaiian Kingdom. This resolution resulted in lots of discussion, as delegates tried to affirm the importance of listening to voices that are often ignored, as well as trying to respect all voices while clarifying how to do that. The resolution originally failed, then was reconsidered and passed the next day. Many delegates learned a lot about Hawaiian history. <https://www.ucc.org/resolution-on->

[occupied-hawaii-narrowly-fails-despite-approval-of-most-delegates. https://www.ucc.org/synod-changes-decision-passes-resolution-on-occupied-hawaii](https://www.ucc.org/synod-changes-decision-passes-resolution-on-occupied-hawaii). An earlier article provides more background: <https://www.ucc.org/native-hawaiians-see-synod-support-for-sovereignty-steps/>

“Who Will Speak For The Trees?” A Resolution On The Rights Of Nature. <https://www.ucc.org/delegates-agree-its-time-to-honor-rights-of-nature/>

Becoming A Church Of Contemplatives In Action. Encourages the UCC to ground social action in prayer and reflection. <https://www.ucc.org/ucc-becomes-a-church-of-contemplatives-in-action/>

A Resolution To Recognize The United Nations International Decade For People Of African Descent (2015-2024) <https://www.ucc.org/decade-for-people-of-african-descent-earns-synod-endorsement/>

Changes to the UCC Constitution/Bylaws were also proposed resulting making changes to include some non-binary language. <https://www.ucc.org/synod-approves-nonbinary-bylaw-language-and-keeps-roberts-rules/>

PSEC 2021 General Synod Delegates:

CV	Rev.	Kim	Adamson
CV	Mr.	Robert	Ames
CV	Rev.	Frances	Chester
CV	Rev.	Selina	Hamilton
CV	Rev.	Linda	Kozlowski
NP	Mr.	Ed	Bibic
NP	Ms	Mary	Butash
NP	Rev.	Butch	Kuykendall
NP	Rev.	Deborah	Rahn Clemens
PH	Rev.	Margaret	Ernst
PH	Rev.	Cean	James
PH	Mr.	Samuel	Marutholi
PH	Mr.	William	Scott
PH	Rev.	Sharell	Shippen
PH	Mr.	Max	Staley
SC	Ms.	Cathy	Jones
SC	Rev.	Ken	McDowell
SC	Ms.	Cora	Shenk
SC	Ms.	Jennie	Strauch
SC	Rev.	Shawn	Van Dyke
UR	Mr.	Paul	Hightower
UR	Mrs.	Robin	Hightower
UR	Rev.	Nichole	Jackson
UR	Rev.	Dwayne	Mosier
UR	Rev.	Suzanne	Schwarz-Green

UR	Ms.	Peg	Schwarz-Green
Alt	Ms.	Liz	Brunton
Alt	Rev.	Ruth	Sheets
Moderator	Rev.	Tony	Villareal
CM	Rev.	Bill	Worley