ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

AMENDMENT TO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE FOR CONSIDERATION

It was VOTED 08-04-EC-11 to adopt the amendment and present it to the Committee of the Whole for consideration.

Amend the report on page 25, creating a third bullet point to read:

In order to assure wide representation of the various unique voices of the United Church of Christ, we ask the Collegium to design a series of ministry convocations: a local church convocation, a justice and witness convocation and a global ministries convocation to be held annually, taking into account regional difficulties in the first four years of the new structure to allow for sharing of best practices, networking, community-building and the upbuilding of connections across the settings of the United Church of Christ. These convocations should be self-supporting through fees and grant funding and open to ecumenical participation with financial support available to ensure participation for those unable to afford to attend. The Covenanted Ministry Groups of the United Church Board would be expected to participate in their particular areas. Listening for the diverse voices of the wider Church as they make decisions about how to prioritize mandates.

ADOPT AMENDED GOVERNANCE FOLLOW-UP TEAM REPORT

It was VOTED 08-04-EC-13 to adopt the Amended Governance Follow-up Team Report as received from the Committee of the Whole (April 12, 2008), with the notice to the joint meeting of the Covenanted Ministries Board
of Directors that the Executive Council would consider the defeated amendment (08-04-EC-12) during its immediately upcoming meeting, April 13-14, 2008.

REVISION OF CURRENT TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT POLICY

It was VOTED 07-10-EC-14

To allow National staff to review, and if necessary reject, air travel reimbursement expenses from board members for travel *made less than 2 weeks in advance of the meeting date*. National staff is further allowed to negotiate reasonable expense reimbursement in situations where an exception to this policy is deemed appropriate.

JOHN THOMAS, JIM MOOS AND JOHN HUMPHREY TO WORK WITH NATIONAL SPECIAL COUNCIL REGARDING REQUEST FROM SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

It was VOTED 08-04-EC-15

to adopt the recommended action that the Executive Council designate John Thomas, Jim Moos and John Humphrey to work with National Special Council, Don Clark, to determine how to respond to the request from the Southeast Conference to participate in litigation regarding Center Church in Atlanta, Georgia. The group will have authority on behalf of the United Church of Christ to make all decisions regarding the litigation, including whether to participate as a party and settle the case. The group will report to the Executive Council at its fall 2008 meeting.

COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

It was VOTED 08-04-EC-16

to receive The Comprehensive Development Plan.

PENSION BOARDS TO PAY SUPPLEMENTATION OF SMALL ANNUITIES

It was VOTED 08-04-EC-17

to adopt the recommended action to authorize The Pension Boards-United Church of Christ, Inc. to pay supplementation of small annuities, effective January 1, 2008, based on an income level of $23,100 with three-fourths of that amount as the level applicable in determining supplementation for a deceased member’s surviving spouse.
SMALL ANNUITIES SUPPLEMENTED INCOME LEVEL

It was VOTED 08-10-EC-16 to receive and accept an increase in the Small Annuities Supplemented Income Level to $24,000; representing an increase of 3.9% from the 2008 level of $23,100.

HOUSING ALLOWANCE

It was VOTED 08-10-EC-17 to accept the traditional statement of housing allowance, not for the EC board, as they have no employees, but covers acceptance for other ministries if not otherwise covered.

ASSISTANT TREASURERS OF THE CORPORATION

It was VOTED 08-10-EC-18 to elect Ann Kiernozek as Treasurer and Kathy Houston as Assistant Treasurers of the Corporation, the Executive Council of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ.

CENTER CHURCH LITIGATION GROUP

It was VOTED 08-10-EC-29 to receive the report of the Center Church Litigation Group.

KATHY HOUSTON, TREASURER; ANN KIERNOZEK AND BETTY HALL, ASSISTANT TREASURERS

It was voted 09-03-EC-14 to adopt the recommendation: To elect Kathy Houston as Treasurer and Ann Kiernozek and Betty Hall as Assistant Treasurers of the Corporation, the Executive Council of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO ACQUIRE AN OPINION OF COUNSEL LETTER

It was voted 09-03-EC-17 (1 no, 2 abstentions) to adopt the recommendation: The Budget and Finance Committee recommends that the Executive Council acquire an Opinion of Counsel letter as to whether Executive Council is in compliance with Bylaw Section 229, and if not, to provide possible alternative solutions to bring us into compliance.
BUDGET AND FINANCE

REPAYMENT OF TSI DEBT

It was VOTED 07-10-EC-11 To allow for overage of OCWM above the 2007 budgeted amount of $9.0 M to be applied to the first payment to reduce $3.5M TSI debt. Authorize Executive Council to execute internal loan documentation to allow a 10 year amortization at the internal borrowing interest rate and authorize CFO to liquidate investments monthly to make payments on the debt with an initial payment date of January 1, 2008. A review of the repayment policy will be made on an annual basis.

GENERAL SYNOD FUNDING

It was VOTED 07-10-EC-12 To revise the 2007 Executive Council budget to allow for an additional $200k off the top from 2007 OCWM to pay for the expenses of General Synod. The cost will be shared by each ministry in the same proportion as the original 2007 OCWM percentage sharing. The originally budgeted OCWM amounts will be reduced as follows: OGM ($45,100), JWM ($34,700), LCM ($58,800), WCM ($47,300) and PB ($14,100).

2008 NATIONAL BASIC SUPPORT ANNUAL ALLOCATIONS BUDGET

It was VOTED 07-10-EC-13 To accept the 2008 National Basic Support Annual Allocations Budget with the National Basic Support Allocation Base of $9.3 million. The budget reflects an increase for General Synod from $100K to $200K annually and allows for funding of $400K off the top for TSI from OCWM to OGM. The resulting funding for each ministry is EC $814,030 (8.75%), OGM $2,392,506 (25.73%), JWM $1,427,056 (15.34%), LCM $2,387,835 (25.68%) WCM $1,691,592 (18.19%) PB $586,981 (6.31%).

2008 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL BUDGET

It was VOTED 07-10-EC-23 (1 Abstention) To recommend that the Executive Council approve the 2008 Executive Council budget of $814,030.
GRANTS TO RACIAL ETHNIC GROUPS

It was VOTED 07-10-EC-26

That the chair of EC be asked to appoint a task force (small task force) to meet with the Chair of UBC, the Chair of MRSEJ, and the Co-chairs of COREM and other COREM bodies regarding the grants to racial ethnic groups and to bring back to the April meeting of the Executive Council a recommendation regarding how to move forward with equity.

TSI ACCUMULATED DEBT

It was VOTED 08-04-EC-18

to adopt the recommended action to amend EC-07-10-B&F-01 (07-10-EC-11) (Motion regarding the $3.5 Million TSI accumulated debt) to allow for overage of OCWM above 2007 budgeted amount of $9.0 M to be applied to the first payment to reduced $3.5 M TSI debt. Authorize Executive Council to execute internal loan documentation to allow a 10 year amortization at the internal borrowing interest rate and authorize CFO to liquidate investments quarterly to make payments on the debt with an initial payment date of January 1, 2008. A review of the repayment policy will be made on an annual basis.

TSI Debt as of August 31, 2007: $3,443,147
Excess 2007 OCWM $0,633,177
Debt to be Amortized as of 1/1/08 $2,809,970

On behalf of the Budget & Finance Committee Mr. Holland moved; the election of Ms. Kathy Houston and Ms. Ann Kiernozek as Co-Treasurers of the Corporation the Executive Council of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ, for a period through December 31, 2008.

NATIONAL BASIC SUPPORT ALLOCATION

It was VOTED 08-10-EC-13

to accept the National Basic Support Allocation Base of $9.0 million. The budget reflects an increase for General Synod from $200k to $260k annually and allows for funding of $400k off the top for TSI from OCWM to OGM. The resulting funding for each ministry is EC $926,300 (10.29%), OGM $2,299,539 (25.55%), JWM $1,355,527 (15.06%), LCM $2,266,628 (25.18%), WCM $1,594,090 (17.71%), PB $557,916 (6.20%).
2009 ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET

It was VOTED 08-10-EC-14
to accept the 2009 Executive Council Administrative Budget (on file under separate cover in the Office of the Chief Financial Officer) totaling $926,300. The budget reflects an increase for general board and Synod meeting expenses and expenses related to the GMP search and replacement.

2009 GENERAL SYNOD BUDGET

It was VOTED 08-10-EC-15
to accept the budget of $1,192,500 for the 2009 General Synod and to increase the registration fees as follows:

Adults
Full Registration (full five days): $175 for delegates, associate delegates, all staff, and visitors
Partial Registration (Friday, Saturday, Sunday): $125 for visitors only.

Youth
$115 for youth ages 18 and under.

Local Registration Fee
$75 for local area volunteers as designated by Conference staff and planners.

Per Diem
For the Twenty Seventh General Synod per diem will be $39.00 per day. This rate was obtained from the U.S. General Services Administration.

The cost of the General Synod is supported in large part by the registration fees. Therefore, all participants must register for Synod, thereby sharing in the support of this event in the life of the Church.

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

It was VOTED 08-10-EC-19
to receive combined audited financial statements as of December 31, 2007 and SAS 114 letter dated August 5, 2008 (on file under separate cover in the Office of the Chief Financial Officer) as presented in the EC plenary.
COREM GRANTS

It was VOTED 08-10-EC-20 to receive and accept the report from the special committee on COREM Grants. The committee recommends that the EC accept the report only regarding amounts and distribution of COREM grants. No decisions were made in regard to the needs stated in the report, but the Committee requested Jim Moos (EC Chair) move forward to establish a committee to review history and needs to be compiled and reported out at the 2009 Spring Joint Board meeting.

FUNDING AND EXPENSE REPORTS

It was VOTED 08-10-EC-21 to accept Funding and Expense reports showing an (EC) deficit of $14k as of August 31, 2008.

TSI DEBT BALANCE

It was VOTED 08-10-EC-22 to accept reconciled figures regarding TSI debt balance as of December 31, 2007, which brings a new confirmed TSI debt balance of $1,941,814 and to ratify action by financial staff to avoid liquidation of assets to pay down the debt as previously moved at the Spring Joint Boards in April 2008.

TSI DEBT

It was VOTED 08-10-EC-23 to suspend recommendation previously made by EC regarding liquidation of investments to pay down the TSI debt. Confirmation needed to carry debt forward. Reconsideration to be given at the 2009 Joint Spring Board meeting to allow time for economic settlement and review of market stability.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL INVESTMENT ACCOUNT AS IT RELATES TO THE PAYDOWN OF TSI DEBT

It was voted 09-03-EC-15 to adopt the recommendation: The Budget and Finance Committee recommends that the Executive Council continue to hold the Executive Council investment account at the United Church Foundation subject to market conditions as it relates to the paydown of TSI debt.
REVISED NATIONAL BASIC SUPPORT ALLOCATION

It was voted 09-03-EC-16 to adopt the recommendation: The Budget and Finance Committee recommends the Executive Council approve the revised National Basic Support Allocation base of $8.5 million for 2009. The resulting funding for each ministry is EC $926,300 (10.90%), OCM $2,186,789 (25.73%), JWM $1,268,777 (14.93%), LCM $2,119,628 (24.93%), WCM $1,475,840 (17.36%), PB $522,666 (6.15%)

ADOPT AND RECOMMEND NATIONAL BASIC SUPPORT ALLOCATIONS TO GENERAL SYNOD FOR ADOPTION

It was voted 09-03-EC-18 to adopt the recommendation: The Budget and Finance Committee recommends that the Executive Council adopt and recommend to General Synod for adoption: 1) A National Basic Support allocation based on $8.5 million for the budget years 2010 and 2011; and 2) that the percentage allocations be based on the recommendation of the Executive Council.

DEVELOPMENT

SPECIAL MISSION OFFERINGS

It was VOTED 07-10-EC-21 The Executive Council requests that the Council of Conference Ministers review and clarify among the Council members the policy and practice of retention of monies from special missions offerings and asks Conference Ministers to report to the Special Mission Offerings Committee on the use of monies retained from these offerings.

REPORT AND RECOMMENDED ACTION FROM THE ORGANIZATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE ON THE COUNCIL OF CONFERENCE MINISTERS’ PROPOSAL

It was VOTED 07-10-EC-10 To adopt the recommendation as amended, which now reads: The Executive Council recommends that the Collegium of Officers work with the Council of Conference Ministers and Local Church Ministries, in consultation with other covenanted and affiliated ministries, to facilitate the development of a plan for church-wide OCWM fundraising strategies and submission of a progress report
to the Executive Council for its meeting in April, 2008.

**DONOR BILL OF RIGHTS**

It was VOTED 08-10-EC-28 to affirm the Donor Bill of Rights as the benchmark for donor relations for fundraising programs of the United Church of Christ;

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**EVALUATION & PLANNING**

**RESOLUTION OF TRIBUTE AND THANKS TO THE REV. ROBERT WITHAM**

It was VOTED 07-10-EC-27 The Executive Council adopts the following resolution of tribute and thanks to the Rev. Robert Witham.

A Resolution of Tribute and Thanks to the Rev. Robert Witham

Whereas, the Rev. Robert Witham was ordained in 1962 and served local churches of the United Church of Christ before being called to serve in Conference Ministry in Massachusetts and New Hampshire;

And whereas, during the late 1990’s the Rev. Robert Witham served as Chief of Staff to the United Church of Christ restructure process, moving to Cleveland to shepherd the process and then to serve as the first Assistant to the Collegium under the new structure;

And whereas, the Rev. Robert Witham spent his professional years in the service of the United Church of Christ and became a living asset regarding the history and polity of the Church and its many governing bodies and boards;

And whereas, his background was deemed essential to the planning of the Church’s 50th Anniversary as a denomination, the Rev. Robert Witham was called out of retirement to serve as the Chair of the 50th Anniversary Planning Committee, serving faithfully and diligently in the capacity of Chair, as evidenced by the enormous success of the year-long celebration, which will culminate on All Saints Day 2007;
Therefore, be it resolved by the Executive Council of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ, acting in its capacity as General Synod Ad Interim, that the thanks and love of the United Church of Christ are hereby expressed to the Rev. Robert Witham for his years of service to the United Church of Christ, especially for his wonderful work on the 50th Anniversary Committee and the resulting joy, sense of worth and renewed faith in God, it has brought to all levels and the general membership of the United Church of Christ.

Let it be further resolved that a copy of this resolution be communicated to the Rev. Robert Witham and his wife Carol, with an additional word of gratitude from the Executive Council for his tireless and pro bono efforts during the past three years, while Chairing the 50th Anniversary Committee.

CONSULTATION ON THE QUESTION OF THE PALESTINIAN-ISRAELI CONFLICT

It was VOTED 07-10-EC-32

That the Executive Council call for a Consultation to be held in 2008 or early 2009 on the question of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in cooperation with Wider Church Ministries; that the Executive Council requests the General Minister and President in consultation with the Executive Minister of the Wider Church Ministries and the Area Executive for the Middle East and Europe to convene a panel of United Church of Christ members representing diverse settings and constituencies of the Church; that the Executive Council requests that the panel engage in dialogue with traditional as well as new voices among ecumenical colleagues, regional partners, and interfaith colleagues representing diverse perspectives. Further, the Executive Council requests the General Minister and President to name a moderator for the panel, which will be staffed by the Area Executive for the Middle East and Europe and the ecumenical officer. The Executive Council requests that a report from this panel be sent to General Synod Twenty-Seven. Finally, recognizing that funding is not currently available for this consultation, the Executive Council requests that the General Minister and President seek funds for this Consultation.

COVENANT WITH CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

It was VOTED 07-10-EC-34

To adopt the recommendation “Covenant with Church World
That the Executive Council affirm the Covenant with Church World Service, previously signed by Wider Church Ministries, and request that the General Minister and President and Executive Minister of Wider Church Ministries sign the document on behalf of the United Church of Christ.

COUNCIL FOR ECUMENISM AND INTERFAITH RELATIONS

It was VOTED 07-10-EC-41

That the Executive Council affirm that the Council for Ecumenism be renamed the “Council for Ecumenism and Interfaith Relations”;

That the Council for Ecumenism and Interfaith Relations meet at least annually in conjunction with the Executive Council;

That six (6) of the twelve total members of the Council for Ecumenism and Interfaith Relations shall be selected from among Executive Council members and up to six (6) members shall be selected based upon expertise as required;

That any proposed actions by the Council for Ecumenism and Interfaith Relations shall be reported to the Executive Council through the Evaluation, Policy and Planning (EP&P) Committee;

That a member of the Council for Ecumenism and Interfaith Relations shall serve on the EP&P Committee; and

That the United Church of Christ Bylaws changes needed to achieve the subject action be submitted to the next meeting of the General Synod.

SUPPORT OF TRINITY UCC

It was VOTED 08-04-EC-19

to adopt the resolution in Support of Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago, Illinois.

50th ANNIVERSARY STATE OF THE CHURCH NATIONAL SURVEY OF CONGREGATIONS
It was VOTED 08-04-EC-20 to adopt the recommended action to receive with thanks the 50th Anniversary State of the Church National Survey of Congregations; and release the survey with an extended background section to the Covenanted Ministries and Council of Conference Ministers for immediate use in planning and programming.


It was VOTED 08-04-EC-23 to adopt the amended action as follows:

The Executive Council heard the actions of the four Covenanted Ministry Boards of Directors in response to the Proposal of the Committee of the Whole (April 12, 2008);

Notes the general, though qualified, support for a single governance model;

Reconstitutes the Governance Follow-up Team (GFT) with the request that the appropriated entities name representatives;

Charges the GFT to respond to the concerns raised in the document entitled “the Urgent Call” by continuing to broadly test the proposal throughout the diversity of the Church, consider the concerns raised about the size of the proposed United Church Board (UCB) in the GFT proposal as amended by the Committee of the Whole on April 13, 2008; explore the role, function and authority of an Executive Committee in the new UCB; and take seriously the additional questions and concerns that have been raised by the Covenanted Ministry Boards; and asks the GFT to bring, if possible, a new proposal to the meetings of the Boards and the Executive Council in the fall of 2008 for possible consideration and action.

The Executive Council will make available at least $25,000.00 for gatherings of HUGS and other groups before the GFT begins its work, with the understanding that GFT members may emerge from the gatherings. The gatherings of the HUGS and other groups will be held before July 15, 2008.
RESCIND ACTION 06-04-EC-11, SELECTING HAWAII AS THE SITE OF THE 2011 GENERAL SYNOD – CANCEL EXISTING CONTRACTS

It was VOTED 08-09-EC-02 With regrets, the Executive Committee of the Executive Council rescinds the Executive Council action of April 24, 2006 (06-04-EC-11) selecting Hawaii as the site of the 2011 General Synod and authorizes Edith Guffey to cancel existing contracts and authorizes staff to explore more economically feasible alternatives for the 2011 General Synod and present those alternatives at the spring 2009 meeting of the Executive Council.

RETENTION OF ATTORNEY – PETITION TO CALIFORNIA SUPREME COURT CONTESTING PROPOSITION 8

It was VOTED 08-11-EC-01 to authorize the retention of attorney Eric Isaacson, as well as his and associated law firms, to join the General Synod of the United Church of Christ in a petition to the California Supreme Court contesting the efficacy of the results of the recent vote on Proposition 8.

FLORIDA CONFERENCE TO HOST 2011 GENERAL SYNOD

It was voted 09-03-EC-10 to adopt the recommended action: The Executive Council thanks the Florida Conference for the invitation to serve as the Host Conference for the 2011 General Synod and designates July 1 – 5, 2011, as the date and Tampa, Florida, as the location of the Twenty-eighth General Synod.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, NEVADA CONFERENCE TO HOST 2013 GENERAL SYNOD

It was voted 09-03-EC-11 to adopt the recommended action: The Executive Council thanks the Southern California, Nevada Conference for the invitation to serve as the Host Conference for the 2013 General Synod and designates June 28 – July 2, 2013, as the date and Long Beach, California, as the location of the Twenty-ninth General Synod.
PLAN TO REDUCE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING COSTS

It was voted 09-03-EC-12 to adopt the recommended action: In recognition of the increasing economic hardship throughout the Church, the Executive Council shall create a plan at the 2009 Fall meeting to significantly reduce expenses related to its meetings. The Executive Council further encourages the Covenanted Ministry Boards to also develop plans at their Fall 2009 meetings to significantly reduce their meeting expenses.

SACRED CONVERSATION ON RACE

It was voted 09-03-EC-13 to adopt the recommendation: the Executive Council shall set aside time at the Fall 2009 meeting to conduct a Sacred Conversation on Race.

ORGANIZATIONAL LIFE ISSUES

ELECTION OF MS. GINI KING TO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

It was VOTED 07-10-EC-03 To elect Ms. Gini King to fill an Executive Council Vacancy in the Class of 2011 from the Maine Conference.

ELECTION OF MR. WILLIAM EPKE TO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

It was VOTED 07-11-EC-04 To elect Mr. William Epke to a two-year term on the Executive Council representing the United Church Foundation.

ELECTION OF MS. RITA FIERO AND MS. LESLIE PENROSE TO JWM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

It was VOTED 07-10-EC-05 To elect both Ms. Rita Fiero to a term on the JWM Board of Directors Class of 2009 and to elect Ms. Leslie Penrose to a term on the JWM Board of Directors Class of 2009 (allowing them to
then sit as JWM representatives to the Executive Council—ed’s note).

ELECT AND RATIFY PERSONS TO LCM AND WCM BOARD POSITIONS

It was VOTED 07-10-EC-35

That the Executive Council elect and ratify Ms. Karen Curtis-Weakly, Mr. Harold Drury, Ms. Constance King, and Dr. Carol Stanley to the Local Church Ministries Board and Mr. Louie Bluecoat, Ms. Sally Hansen, Ms. Kim Magwire, and Rev. Leon White to the Wider Church Ministries Board.

ELECT PERSONS TO JWM BOARD POSITIONS

It was VOTED 07-10-EC-36

That the Executive Council elect Rev. Pamela June Anderson, Rev. Charles Barnes, Ms. Sarah Bigney, Mr. Wallace Cannon, Rev. Martha Cruz, Rev. Deborah Davis, Mr. Gary Dickens, Ms. Rita Fiero, Rev. John Gantt, Ms. Susan Hall, Ms. Laura Ilardo, Ms. Kristina Isabel, Ms. Carrie Miller, Mr. Wesley Oliver, Ms. Leslie Penrose, Ms. Sansiris Tamayo, Mr. Fredd Ward, Rev. Jane Willan, Ms. Carolyn Williamson, and Ms. Melissa Woo to the Justice and Witness Ministries Board.

NOMINEES TO UNITED CHURCH FOUNDATION

It was VOTED 07-10-EC-37

That the Executive Council approve these nominees to the corporate membership of the United Church Foundation: William Epke, Caucasian layperson from NY; Steve Gray, Caucasian clergyperson from IN; Steve Guy, Caucasian layperson from PA; and Serilda (Pete) Thompson, Caucasian female from KS.

NOMINEES TO PENSION BOARDS

It was VOTED 07-10-EC-38

That the Executive Council approve to the Pension Boards nominee pool Marguerite Boslaugh, Caucasian layperson from CT; Robert Medvey, Caucasian layperson from CT; and Leslie Schenk, Caucasian clergyperson from MO.
It was VOTED
07-10-EC-39

That the Executive Council adopt the proposed distribution of conference delegates to the Twenty-seventh General Synod, totaling 676 delegates.

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**ORGANIZATION LIFE SUB-COMMITTEE FOR GENERAL SYNOD STANDING RULES**

It was VOTED 07-10-EC-40

That the Organization Life Committee appoint a sub-committee to recommend possible amendments to the General Synod Standing Rules, as they related to pronouncements, plans for action, resolutions, formal motions, and other issues, e.g. voice without vote; and present them to the April meeting of the Executive Council.

**DIRECTION OF MODEL DEVELOPED BY GOVERNANCE FOLLOW-UP TEAM**

It was VOTED 07-10-EC-42

OL Committee Recommendation # 9 That the Executive Council affirm the direction of the model developed by the Governance Follow-up Team, and commend it to the Boards of Directors of the Covenanted Ministries for their consideration, feedback and hope-for affirmation of the general concept proposed by the model and, if this affirmation is shared by all of the Boards of Directors of the Covenanted Ministries, that the Executive Council further request the Governance Follow-up Team to receive the feedback, discuss the feedback and concerns raised and make its final recommendations to the Joint Board meetings in April 2008 for action.

**CHANGE TERM “EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE” TO “BOARD OF DIRECTORS”**

It was VOTED 07-10-EC-43

To adopt the proposed amendment

A friendly amendment was offered and accepted to change the following usage of the term “Executive Committee” to “Board of Directors” to be consistent with the GFT vision.

That the executives of the Pension Boards, United Church Foundation and the Council for Health and Human Services Ministries have a position on the Board of Directors and, if not a member of a UCC church, then a member of the Board of Directors would fill the position;
CONSIDERATION TO THE CONCERNS REGARDING A SINGLE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

It was VOTED 07-10-EC-47

To adopt the Organizational Life Recommendation # 10 as amended which now reads as follows.

Recommended Action # 10 – That the Executive Council recommend to the Governance Follow-up Team that it give consideration to the concerns regarding a single governance structure from the following sources:

The document entitled, “Summary of Concerns and Issues on the Single Governance Structure;”

Concerns raised in the first plenary session of Executive Council on October 12, 2007;
Concerns raised in the fourth plenary session of Executive Council on October 13, 2007;
Submission by any Covenanted Ministries;
Submission by any Affiliated or Associated Ministry; and
Issues raised during the session of the Organization Life Committee of Executive Council on October 12-13, 2007, including:

That the responsibilities of the proposed “Executive Committee” be separated into strategic planning and coordinating functions, and that two separate committees be named and formed to perform these functions;

That the name of the new organization be changed from United Church Board of Directors to “the United Church of Christ Board of Directors;”

That the composition of the Board of Directors reflect adherence to the diversity model of Justice and Witness Ministries as set forth in the UCC Bylaws;

The Executive Council requests that the Governance Follow-up Team include Resource Development as a standing committee in the proposed governance structure.”

That the leadership role of the General Minister and President within the collegial team model be specified to include the authority to make a decision in the event of an impasse between
members, and that the General Minister and President have specifically defined administrative authority;

That the executives of the Pension Boards, United Church Foundation and the Council for Health and Human Services Ministries have a position on the Board of Directors and, if not a member of a UCC church, then a member of the Board of Directors would fill the position;

That any individual named to a committee be given voice and vote; and

That all members of the Board of Directors serve no less than four (4) yearsnor more than six (6) years.

CONSIDERATION OF THE CANDIDATE FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OR LCM

It was VOTED 07-10-EC-49 That the Executive Council consider the, as yet un-announced, candidate for Executive Director of Local Church Ministries at its April 2008 meeting.

REMOVAL OF MS. ROSA SMITH-WILLIAMS

It was VOTED 08-04-EC-03 to remove Ms. Rosa Smith-Williams as a member of the Executive Council.

REMOVAL OF MS. MOLLY CLAUHS

It was VOTED 08-04-EC-04 to remove Ms. Molly Clauhs as a member of the Executive Council.

REMOVE OF MR. KEITH HALE

It was VOTED 08-04-EC-05 to remove Mr. Keith Hale as a member of the Executive Council.

ELECTION OF MR. CARLOS FLORESCA

It was VOTED 08-04-EC-06 to elect Mr. Carlos Floresca to the Executive Council.
ELECTION OF MR. DAVID ANDERSON

It was VOTED 08-04-EC-07 to elect Mr. David Anderson to the Executive Council.

ELECTION OF MS. SUSAN (SUE) SHADBURNE CALL

It was VOTED 08-04-EC-08 to elect Ms. Susan (Sue) Shadburne Call to the Executive Council.

ELECTION OF MS. ARLINDA WICKLAND

It was VOTED 08-04-EC-09 to elect Ms. Arlinda Wickland to the Executive Council.

ELECTION OF REV. DR. STEPHEN L. STERNER

It was VOTED 08-04-EC-10 to elect Rev. Dr. Stephen L. Sterner as an Acting Officer of the Church.

AMENDED ORGANIZATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE DOCUMENT REGARDING THE COMPOSITION OF THE RECONSTITUTED GOVERNANCE FOLLOW-UP TEAM, AS ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2007

It was VOTED 08-04-EC-24 to adopt the amended action as follows:

a. Ask the Chairs and Vice-chairs of the Covenanted Ministries Boards to ascertain which members of the Governance Follow-up Team representing their respective Boards wish to continue and whom the Boards wish to continue;

b. Ask the Executive Committee of each Board and the Executive Council to discuss possible replacement members from their Boards who may serve;

c. Request that the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Boards and Executive Council meet by conference call with the Collegium to review the names and composition of the reconstituted Governance Follow-up Team as it is developing, and make additions to form a representative group that includes members of all Boards, Executive Council, the Pension Boards, United Church Foundation
and the HUGS, which will decide upon and appoint to the Governance Follow-up Team through their own internal processes; and

GENERAL SYNOD STANDING RULES

It was VOTED 08-04-EC-25 to adopt the rewritten and revised General Synod Standing Rules for the Twenty-seventh General Synod.

ELECTION OF JOHN DECKENBACK, BRIAN LAPIS AND STEWART HOOVER TO THE OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS OF THE UCC, INC.

It was VOTED 08-04-EC-26 to adopt the recommended action to elect the Rev. John Deckenback, Mr. Brian Lapis and Mr. Stewart Hoover to the Office of Communication of the United Church of Christ, Inc. Board of Directors to terms ending on December 31, 2010, and Mr. Michael Bracy to a term ending on December 31, 2009.

ELECTION OF EDITH A. GUFFEY TO THE OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS OF THE UCC, INC.

It was VOTED 08-04-EC-27 to adopt the recommended action to approve the election of Edith A. Guffey, Associate General Minister, as the Collegium designee to the Board of Directors of the Office of Communication of the United Church of Christ, Inc., for a term ending with the conclusion of her current term as Associate General Minister (Class of 2011).

ELECTIONS TO THE PENSION BOARD’S BOARD OF TRUSTEES

It was VOTED 08-04-EC-28 to adopt the recommended action to approve the following persons eligible for election to the Pension Boards’ Board of Trustees: Rev. Rodney Franklin of Birmingham, Alabama and Mr. John B. Kleiman of Glastonbury, Connecticut.

SPECIAL BALLOT

It was VOTED 08-04-EC-29 to receive the results of the special electronic ballot to fill
vacancies on the various Covenanted Ministries Boards of Directors and the General Synod Nominating Committee.

**BACKGROUND:** the Office of the Minister for Governing Body Relations certifies the following individuals were elected by a majority vote of 49 YES, with no dissenting votes;

Mr. Vy Nguyen, Asian-American, ordained male, 25, as a representative of the Christian Church (Disciples) to the Justice and Witness Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2009.

Ms. Martha Mendoza, Latina, lay female, 40-49, as a representative of the Council for Hispanic Ministries to the Justice and Witness Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2013.

Mr. Zsolt Ötvös, European-American, ordained male, 30-39, as a representative of the Calvin Synod to the Justice and Witness Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2011.

Mr. Efrain Agosto, Hispanic, lay male, 50-59, as a representative at-large to the Justice and Witness Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2009.

Ms. Pamela Canzater Cheney, African-American, ordained female, 50-59, as a representative of the Ohio Conference to the Justice and Witness Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2013.

Ms. Sharon Key, European-American, ordained female, 50-59, as a representative of the Rhode Island Conference to the Local Church Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2011.

Ms. Nancy Lawrence, European-American, lay female, 50-59, as a representative of the Massachusetts Conference to the Local Church Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2009.

Mr. James Ewers, European-American, lay male, 17-25, as a representative at-large to the Office of General Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2009.

Ms. Ilona Komjathy, European-American, ordained female, 60+, as a representative of the Calvin Synod to the Office of General Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2013.

Ms. Lisa Meidinger, European-American, lay female, 19-29, as a representative of the Northern Plains Conference to the Office of General Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2013.
Mr. Jonathan Page, European-American, ordained male, 19-29, as a representative of the Massachusetts Conference to the Office of General Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2009.

Ms. Alyce Downer, European-American, lay female, 30-39, as a representative of the South Central Conference to the Wider Church Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2011.

Ms. Zora Ludwig, European-American, lay female, 60+, as a representative of the Calvin Synod to the Wider Church Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2013.

Ms. Kimberly McKerley, European-American, ordained female, 50-59, as a representative of the New Hampshire Conference on the Wider Church Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2011.

Ms. Angela Myers, African-American, lay female, 40-49, as a representative of the United Black Christians to the General Synod Nominating Committee in the Class of 2009.

**COMMUNITY BUILDING AT MEETINGS**

It was VOTED
**08-04-EC-30**

to approve the motion to provide for community building at all future Executive Council meetings.

**GOVERNANCE FOLLOW-UP TEAM II**

It was VOTED
**08-10-EC-10**

to approve.

(Members: Ms. Brown, Mr. Camp, Mr. Floresca, Mr. Hagler, Mr. Holland and Ms. West have asked that their No Vote on 08-10-EC-10 be specified in the record of the proceedings.)

Mr. Moos asked Mr. Holeman to restate the motion before the body: The Executive Council;

1) Affirms the Proposal of the Governance Follow-Up Team as a sufficient basis for the restructure of the national setting;
2) Reports the following recommendations, if any, supported by a majority vote, for possible modification of the Proposal; and
3) Authorizes its Chair and Vice-chair to meet with their counterparts to reconcile, if possible, any differences in the actions of all four Boards and the Executive Council as a basis for the preparation of
proposed Constitution and Bylaw amendments for consideration at
the 2009 Spring meetings, and;

It was VOTED
08-10-EC-11 to approve.

Mr. Holeman moved and it was seconded: The Executive Council
authorizes the continuance of the Governance Follow-Up Team II
through June, 2009 and asks it to

1) Prepare proposed Constitution and Bylaw amendments for
consideration by the Boards and the Executive Council in March,
2009;
2) Communicate the proposed changes broadly throughout the Church;
and
3) Facilitate Church-wide conversation about the proposed structural
changes in order to prepare the Church for deliberation and decision at
General Synod in June 2009, and;

It was VOTED
08-10-EC-12 to approve.

The Executive Council has directed that the following information
be communicated to the Governance Follow-up Team II; the
Executive Council requests that the Governance Follow-up Team II
revisit the titles and means of selecting and replacing the
positions now designated as Chief Administrative Officer and
Chief Financial Officer. The Executive Council also requests the
Governance Follow-up Team II consider concerns regarding
corporate accountability in the merger of the Justice and Witness
Ministries, Local Church Ministries and Wider Church Ministries
into the United Church Board, with particular attention paid to the
proposed process as outlined in lines 840-844 and 902-903.

(No formal action taken or approved regarding these requests
raised during the course of the debate leading to the formal actions,
above.)

APPROVAL OF NOMINEES TO BOARDS OF DIRECTORS
AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

It was VOTED
08-10-EC-24 to approve the following nominees:

Ms. Carissa Cullumber, European-American, lay female, 17-29, as a
representative of the Christian Church (DOC) to the Wider Church Ministries
Board of Directors in the Class of 2009.
Ms. Loyce Newton-Edwards, African American, ordained female, 60+, as a representative of the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference to the Wider Church Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2013.

Ms. Kathryn Frazier, European-American, lay female, 19-29, as a representative of the Council on Youth and Young Adult Ministries to the Justice and Witness Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2009.

Ms. Christa Owens, African American, lay female, 50-59, as a representative of the Massachusetts Conference to the Justice and Witness Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2009.

Mr. Miguel Close-Rodriquez, Hispanic Latino, lay male, 17-26, as a representative of the California, Nevada Southern Conference to the Justice and Witness Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2011.

Ms. Fay Ann Moberg, Native American, female, as a representative of the Council for American Indian Ministry to the Office of General Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2011.

Ms. Monica Newburgh, European-American, lay female, 17-29, as a representative of the Penn Northeast Conference to the Local Church Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2011.

Ms. Sharyl Peterson, European-American, ordained female, 50-59, as a representative of the Rocky Mountain Conference to the Local Church Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2009.

Mr. David Spollett, European-American, ordained male, 50-59, as a representative of the Connecticut Conference to the Local Church Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2011.

Mr. George Weavill, Jr., European-American, lay male, 60+, as a representative of the Rhode Island Conference to the Local Church Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2011.

Ms. Anita Louise Poole, European-American, lay female, 40-49, as a representative of the Illinois South Conference to the Executive Council in the Class of 2011.

REVISIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL STANDING RULES

It was VOTED 08-10-EC-25 to approve revisions to the Executive Council Standing Rules.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAW CHANGES – MODERATOR AND VICE-MODERATOR OF GENERAL SYNOD

It was VOTED 08-10-EC-26 to request the Governance Follow-up Team II propose constitution and bylaw changes to have the Moderator and Vice-moderator of General Synod serve two two-year terms. In the succeeding two years, the Vice-moderator shall move into the position of
Moderator. The Nominating Committee shall honor the tradition and expectation of diversity in filling these positions.

**UCC DELEGATION FOR THE WORLD ALLIANCE OF REFORMED CHURCHES GENERAL COUNCIL**

**It was VOTED 08-10-EC-27**

to approve the following people as the United Church of Christ delegation for the World Alliance of Reformed Churches General Council to be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan, June 18-28, 2010:

- Sheldon Culver (F, Euro-American)
- Arelis Figueroa (F, young adult, Latina)
- Edie Rasell (F, Euro-American)
- Eleazar Fernandez (M, Pacific Islander/Asian American)
- Kaji Spellman (F, young adult, African American)
- Susan Davies (F, Euro-American)
- Member from the Calvin Synod
- Member from Wider Church Ministries
- General Minister and President
- Ecumenical Officer

**REMOVAL OF BERNARD INGRAM**

**It was VOTED 09-03-EC-04**
to remove Mr. Bernard Ingram from the Executive Council as a representative of the Southern Conference.

**ELECTION OF DOUGLAS WOOTEN**

**It was VOTED 09-03-EC-05**
to elect Mr. Douglas Wooten as a representative of the Southern Conference to the Executive Council.

**AUTHORIZATION OF MR. MOOS TO SIGN RETAINER**

**It was voted 09-03-EC-07**
to authorize Mr. Moos to sign the retainer for Special National Counsel, Mr. Don Clark, on behalf of the Executive Council.

**THE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE**

**It was voted 09-03-EC-08**
to adopt the report of the Committee of Reference (see following).

The Committee of Reference recommends:

2. **Sacred Conversations on Race. Prudential Resolution.** The Executive Council recommends referral of the resolution, “Sacred Conversations on Race,” submitted by the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference, to a committee of the General Synod.

3. **Options to War against Iran. Resolution of Witness.** The Executive Council recommends referral of the resolution, “Options to War against Iran,” submitted by the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference, to a committee of the General Synod.

4. **A Call for Study of Our Church’s Involvement in the Eugenics Movement. Prudential Resolution.** The Executive Council recommends referral of the resolution, “A Call for Study of Our Church’s Involvement in the Eugenics Movement,” submitted by the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference, to a committee of the General Synod.


7. **Calling for Comprehensive HIV Prevention in Church and Community. Prudential Resolution.** The Executive Council recommends referral of the resolution, “Calling for Comprehensive HIV Prevention in Church and Community,” submitted by Wider Church Ministries, to a committee of the General Synod. Note: The submitter is asked to provide a briefer summary statement, which might be the words currently appearing in lines 133 through 137 of the submitted version of the resolution.


10. Axis of Friendship with Iran. Resolution of Witness. The Executive Council recommends referral of the resolution, “Axis of Friendship with Iran,” submitted by First Congregational Church of Berkeley, Berkeley, California, of the Northern California-Nevada Conference, by the New York Conference, and by six other Local Churches from the Southern California-Nevada, Connecticut, Missouri Mid-South, and New York conferences, to a committee of the General Synod. Note: The submitters are asked to provide a summary statement.


Justice Town Hall Gathering,” submitted by Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries, to a committee of the General Synod.

14. **A Call to Awareness and Action to End the Practice of Trafficking in Persons. Resolution of Witness.** The Executive Council recommends referral of the resolution, “A Call to Awareness and Action to End the Practice of Trafficking in Persons,” submitted by Justice and Witness Ministries, to a committee of the General Synod.

15. **On the Situation of Iraqi Refugees and Internally Displaced. Resolution of Witness.** The Executive Council recommends referral of the resolution, “On the Situation of Iraqi Refugees and Internally Displaced,” submitted by the Central Atlantic and Southern conferences, directly to a plenary session of the General Synod, with the recommendation that it be approved.

16. **A Call to Reaffirm the Importance of Ecumenical Commitments and Initiatives in the United Church of Christ. Resolution of Witness.** The Executive Council recommends referral of the resolution, “A Call to Reaffirm the Importance of Ecumenical Commitments and Initiatives in the United Church of Christ,” submitted by Heidelberg United Church of Christ, York, Pennsylvania, of the Penn Central Conference, and six other Local Churches from the Massachusetts, Michigan, Penn Central, Pennsylvania Southeast, and Wisconsin conferences, directly to a plenary session of the General Synod, with the recommendation that it be approved.

17. **Earthwise Congregation: On Mediating Climate Change. Prudential Resolution.** The Executive Council recommends referral of the resolution, “Earthwise Congregation: On Mediating Climate Change,” submitted by the Minnesota Conference, to the implementing bodies named in “A Resolution on Climate Change” as voted by the Twenty-Sixth General Synod (07-GS-16).

18. **In Support of Physician Assistance in Dying. Resolution of Witness.** The Executive Council recommends referral of the resolution, “In Support of Physician Assistance in Dying,” submitted by the Central Atlantic Conference, to Justice and Witness Ministries, with the recommendation that it be considered in the study process established by the Twenty-Sixth General Synod in the resolution, “Legalization of Physician Aid in Dying” (07-GS-37).
19. **On the Urgency for Action on Climate Change.** *Resolution of Witness.* The Executive Council recommends referral of the resolution, “On the Urgency for Action on Climate Change,” submitted by the Connecticut Conference, to the implementing bodies named in “A Resolution on Climate Change” as voted by the Twenty-Sixth General Synod (07-GS-16). Note: The submitter is asked to provide a briefer summary statement.

**GEOFFREY BLACK AS CANDIDATE FOR GENERAL MINISTER AND PRESIDENT**

It was voted 09-03-EC-09 to confirm the Rev. Geoffrey Black as the candidate for General Minister and President to be presented to the Twenty-seventh General Synod for election.

**SPECIAL ELECTRONIC BALLOT**

It was voted 09-03-EC-19 to adopt the recommendation: to receive the results of the special electronic ballot, dated February 4, 2009, electing various individual to the Executive Council and Boards of Directors of the Covenanted Ministries to fill vacancies on those bodies, this done in accordance with the Standing Rules of the Executive Council. Receipt of the results will be reported to the Executive Council as part of the committee report (see following).

Ms. Jane B. Anderson elected to the Executive Council in the Class of 2011, representing the Wisconsin Conference;

Ms. Marcia Charles elected to the Executive Council in the Class of 2011, representing the Maine Conference;

Mr. Alfred Schwerdt elected to the Executive Council in the Class of 2011, representing the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference;

Mr. MacArthur Flournoy elected to the Justice and Witness Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2011, representing the California, Nevada Northern Conference;

Ms. Nancy Erickson elected to the Local Church Ministries Board of Directors in the Class of 2013, representing the Nebraska Conference;

Mr. Armin Schmidt and Ms. Elizabeth Walker elected to the Office of
General Ministries Board of Directors, Mr. Schmidt in the Class of 2013, representing the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference and Ms. Walker in the Class of 2011, representing the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference;

Mr. David Long-Higgins and Ms. Ruthann Redmon elected to the Wider Church Ministries Board of Directors, Mr. Higgins in the Class of 2009, representing the Ohio Conference and Ms. Redmon in the Class of 2013, representing the Illinois South Conference.

GENERAL SYNOD CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE, CLASS OF 2011

It was voted 09-03-EC-20 to adopt the recommendation: in accordance with Section 204 of the Constitution and Bylaws, the Executive Council appoints the listed delegates to the 27th and 28th General Synods to the General Synod Credentials Committee, Class of 2011 (see following).

Lydia de los Rios—Hispanic American, lay female, 50-59 from the California Nevada Southern Conference.

Christy Germann—European American, lay female, 19-29 from the Illinois South Conference.

Edward Smith-Davis—African American, ordained male, 50-59, from the Illinois Conference.

Sham Moteelall—Asian American, lay male, 50-59, from the Minnesota Conference.

Joshua Arend—European American, lay male, 19-29, from the Indiana-Kentucky Conference.

EDWIN MOREANO, CHAIR OF THE 27th GENERAL SYNOD CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

It was voted 09-03-EC-21 to adopt the recommendation: in accordance with Section 204 of the Constitution and Bylaws, the Executive Council appoints Mr. Edwin Moreano, Hispanic American, ordained male, 40-49, from the Iowa Conference as Chair of the 27th General Synod Credentials Committee.

SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION BY THE 27th GENERAL SYNOD TO THE GENERAL SYNOD NOMINATING COMMITTEE, CLASS OF 2015
It was voted 09-03-EC-22 to adopt the recommendation: in accordance with Section 197 paragraphs a and b of the Constitution and Bylaws, the approval of a slate of candidates for election by the 27th General Synod to the General Synod Nominating Committee, Class of 2015 (see following).

Recommended for Nomination from the Conferences:

Lay persons:

1—Christine Tubbs, Iowa Conference, age 60+, European American female, retired school teacher and member of United Church of Christ of Maquoketa in Maquoketa, Iowa. Ms. Tubbs has a strong identity with the UCC and has served as Moderator of her local church, served on various committees and as its newsletter editor. She has served on Conference and Eastern Association task forces and committees and has been particularly involved in the conference youth camp program. She volunteers at her local 4-H program, women’s organizations, food pantry, nature center and at two elementary schools. Ms. Tubbs is a supporter of and volunteer to Back Bay Mission.

2—Ivy Tillman, Massachusetts Conference, age 50-59, African American female, Coordinator of Student Technology and member of First Congregational UCC in Amherst, Massachusetts. Ms. Tillman is a Deacon at her church. She is on the Western Massachusetts Association Open and Affirming Task Force and serves as an Open and Affirming consultant. She is an active participant in her Conference Annual Meeting in the Conference Amistad celebration. She is a former delegate to the General Synod. Ms. Tillman lists group process and church educator as interests and skills she can bring to the Nominating Committee.

3—James Turner, Indiana-Kentucky Conference, age 40-49, African American male, Information Systems Auditor and member of Trinity UCC in Gary, Indiana. He serves as a Deacon of his church and sits on its Board of Trustees. Trinity is a new church start in the Kentucky-Indiana Conference. Ms. Turner is involved in a group called Men that Mean Business, which started a neighborhood watch program and helps staff the local food pantry. The group also works in conjunction with the local school system. He has also volunteered his time working with senior citizens in assisted living facilities. As a Deacon, Mr. Turner has expressed an interest in learning more about and serving the wider church.

4—Ralph France, Central Atlantic Conference, age 60+, European
American male, District Court Judge and member of Zion UCC in Hagerstown in Maryland. Mr. France has been a consistory member for 20 years and has served as both its President and Vice-president. He has served on numerous church committees. He is a life-long member of the UCC. He previously served as President and Vice-president, for two years each, of the Central Atlantic Conference. Mr. France is a 43 year member of the Maryland Bar Association and the former President, Vice-president, Treasurer and 40 year member of the Washington County Bar Association.

5—Nancy Phipps, Kansas-Oklahoma Conference, age 50-59, European American female, Licensed Minister (lay status) of Faith UCC in Wichita, Kansas. Ms. Phipps has served at Faith for the past year. She has served as Chair or Vice-chair of every committee or board at the local church level over the past 30 years, with particular interest in those committees and boards serving the needs of women. She teaches Sunday school. She has served as her conference secretary and was honored by the General Synod as an Honored Lay Woman. Ms. Phipps volunteers at her neighborhood food bank and was a member of her hometown, Whitewater, Kansas, Centennial Steering Committee.

6—Christina Held, California Nevada Southern Conference, age 30-39, European American female, store manager and member of Community UCC in San Dimas, California. Ms. Held is Director of Children and Youth Ministries at Community UCC. She also serves on the church Mission Ministry and the Endowment Fund Committee. She coordinates the worship service when the pastor is absent. She is the Registrar of the Eastern Association and prior to that served on its Executive Committee. She is on the Conference Board of Directors and Chair of its Personnel Committee. She serves on the City of Claremont’s Relay for Life Committee and recently helped organize a blood drive for the City of Hope.

Clergy:

1—Tim Marquez, South Central Conference, age 30-39, Asian American male, Office Manager of the South Central Conference and member of Evangelical UCC in Stafford, Texas. Prior to his appointment to the Conference staff, Mr. Marquez was the Pastor at Evangelical. He is a native of the Philippine Islands and is a licensed clinical psychologist in the Philippines, where he was active in community organizing and justice issues. His psychology training and experiences in the Philippines have aided his work in Texas, on the Settegast Heights Low Income Housing Board and as a volunteer chaplain at Houston area hospitals and long term health facilities. He is active in PAAM. Mr. Marquez also serves on an ecumenical task force for mental health in the Houston area.
2—Dawn Shippe, New Hampshire Conference, age 50-59, European American female, is the pastor of North Church of Portsmouth UCC, in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. She is in her 10th year at North Church and has been in the Conference for the past 24 years, during which time she previously served on its Board of Trustees and has served as an officer in the Rockingham Association, as well. Ms. Shippe was the Conference representative to the Board of Homeland Ministries just prior to restructure in 2000. She convenes her local clergy association and sits on the board of directors of a Portsmouth children’s home. After 10 years at North Church, Ms. Shippe says she is now in a position to again offer her services at the national setting. In nominating Ms. Shippe, her Conference Minister says she will bring group process and organizational skills to the Nominating Committee.

3—James Fauther, Rocky Mountain Conference, age 40-49, African American male, is the pastor of Montbello UCC in Denver, Colorado. He has previously served churches in Florida, the Church of the Open Door in Miami and First Congregational UCC in Sarasota. Mr. Fauther currently serves on the Council for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations. He is a former member of the Church’s Executive Council, serving for two years in an unexpired term. While at the Chicago Theological Seminary, he served on the United Church Board for World Ministries in the previous structure. Mr. Fauther has also served as a delegate to the General Synod.

4—Chandra Soans, Pennsylvania Southeast Conference, age 50-59, Asian American male, is the pastor of Grace-Trinity UCC in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Mr. Soans started Grace-Trinity in 1996 with 11 members. It now has 225 members and is credited with helping revitalize an inner-city neighborhood. Mr. Soans teaches part-time at Lancaster Theological Seminar. He previously served as the Vice-moderator of PAAM and is active in the Philadelphia Association. Mr. Soans is a volunteer at neighborhood hospitals, his local school system and in organizing blood drives.

5—Chris Rankin, Penn Central Conference, age 30-39, European American male, is pastor of St. John’s UCC in Fredericksburg, Pennsylvania. Mr. Rankin has served at St. John’s since 2004. He is currently engaged in the D.Min. program at Lancaster Theological Seminary. Mr. Rankin served on the Conference Board of Directors and on its Search Committee to call a Conference Minister in 2003-04. He has also served as president of his Association. Mr. Rankin is also serving on the Association Committee on Ministry.

6—Joe Schulte, South Dakota Conference, age 50-59, European American male, is pastor of Yankton UCC in Yankton, South Dakota. Mr. Schulte
has previously served as an interim Conference Minister for the Penn Northeast Conference, Association Minister in the Ohio Conference and as a local church pastor in Bangor, Maine and Dubuque, Iowa. Mr. Schulte served on the Kentucky Council of Churches and other ecumenical organizations. He serves on his local foster care review board and on a suicide prevention board. He plays the guitar and enjoys reading. In nominating Mr. Schulte the South Dakota Conference Minister says he will bring expertise as a church educator, financial expertise and development experience to the national setting.

**Recommended for Nomination from the Historically Underrepresented Groups:**

**Coalition for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns;**

1—Eric C. Smith, age 30-39, European American lay male, Associate Director of the Maine Council of Churches and member of First Parish Church Congregational UCC, Freeport, Maine. Mr. Smith serves on the Maine Conference Nominating Committee. He was the Conference Parliamentarian in 2007. He is a previous Assistant Moderator of the General Synod (2005). He served as the Interim Executive for Health and Wholeness Advocacy in the Wider Church Ministries in 2002. Mr. Smith is on the Board of Directors of the Maine AIDS Alliance, an Equality Maine volunteer and a member of the Maine Gay Men’s Chorus.

**United Black Christians;**

1—Angela Myers, age 40-49, African American lay female, a teacher in the Chesapeake, Virginia School System and a member of Providence UCC in Chesapeake, Virginia, where she also teaches Sunday School. She has recently been named Teacher of the Year. She is the past President and past Vice-president of her local PTA. She currently serves as the Parliamentarian of the organization. Ms. Myers currently serves on the General Synod Nominating Committee. She was elected by the Executive Council to the committee in April of 2008, filling a vacancy in the Class of 2009. She is eligible, and has been nominated, to serve a full six-year term.

**NESA JOSEPH – ELECTION TO UNITED CHURCH FOUNDATION, CLASS OF 2013**

It was voted 09-03-EC-23 to adopt the recommendation: to elect to the corporate membership of the United Church Foundation Nesa Joseph to the Class of 2013.
It was voted 09-03-EC-24 to adopt the recommendation: in accordance with Section 197 paragraph c of the Constitution and Bylaws, the election of Carol Shipley, European American lay female, 50-59, from the Montana-Northern Wyoming Conference as the Chair of the 27th General Synod Nominating Committee.

VOICE WITHOUT VOTE AT THE 27th GENERAL SYNOD

It was voted 09-03-EC-25 to adopt the recommendation: to confer the status of Voice without Vote at the 27th General Synod to the following groups making application for such status in accordance with Rule 10 of the Standing Rules (see the following).

Groups submitting petitions in compliance with Rule 10:

1—Focus Renewal Ministries: Ms. Janet Smithson, Shepard of the Hills UCC (Pennsylvania Southeast) / Mr. Vernon Stoop, Church by the Sea UCC (Florida) designated for accreditation.

2—The UCC Professional Chaplains and Counselors: Ms. Dorothy Shelly, St. Peter’s Tohickon UCC (Pennsylvania Southeast) / Ms. Martha Jacobs, The Riverside Church (New York) designated for accreditation.

3—UCC Military Chaplains: Ms. Janice Dashner, O’Fallon UCC (Illinois South) / Mr. Christopher Edwards, Good Shepherd of Faith UCC (Illinois South) designated for accreditation.

4—Network for Environmental and Economic Responsibility: Mr. Doug Hunt, Church of Our Savior UCC (Southeast) / Mr. Donald Clark, Pleasant Hill Community UCC (Southeast) designated for accreditation.

5—United Church of Christ Musicians Association: Mr. Harold Smith, Unity Hill UCC (Connecticut) / Ms. Carole Fanslow, Unity Hill UCC (Connecticut) designated for accreditation.

6—Faithful and Welcoming Churches of the United Church of Christ: Mr. Bob Thompson, Corinth Reformed Church (Southern) / Mr. John Roberts, Eden UCC (Illinois South) designated for accreditation.

7—The Ministry for God’s Animals: Mr. Stephen Kaufman, Plymouth Church of Shaker Heights (Ohio) / Ms. Lisa Hadler, First Congregational UCC (Illinois) designated for accreditation.
8—The Association of United Church Educators: Mr. John Whitebread, Plymouth Congregational UCC (Indiana Kentucky) / Ms. Debbie Gline Allen, 1st Parish UCC (New Hampshire) designated for accreditation.

9—Biblical Witness Fellowship: Mr. David Runnion-Bareford, Candia Congregational Church (New Hampshire) / Mr. William Boylan, Byfield Parish Church (Massachusetts) designated for accreditation.

10—The Association of Intentional Interim Ministers: Ms. Patricia Barth, Rockville UCC (Central Atlantic) / Ms. Andrea Stoeckel, Faith United UCC (New York) designated for accreditation.

11—Christians for Justice Action: Mr. Kwami Osei Reed, Heritage Fellowship UCC (Central Atlantic) / Ms. Ann Marie Coleman, University Church UCC (Illinois Conference) designated for accreditation.

PROTOCOL FOR PARTICIPATION IN LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

It was voted 09-03-EC-26 to adopt the recommendation: to approve the “Protocol for Participation in Legal Proceedings” (see following).

“Proposed Protocol for Participation in Legal Proceedings

The Executive Council authorizes and directs its Executive Committee and the General Minister and President, after consultation with the Nationwide Special Counsel, to determine when it is consistent with the mission or otherwise in the best interests of the General Synod to file friend of the court briefs or other pleadings on its behalf in court proceedings.

When the General Synod, by resolution or otherwise, has previously adopted a position on the subject about which the legal proceedings relate, the Chair of the Executive Council and General Minister and President alone may authorize the filing of a friend of the court brief or other pleading consistent with the Synod action(s).

When the General Synod has not previously adopted a position on the subject about which legal proceedings relate, the Executive Committee of the Executive Council may authorize the filing of a friend of the court brief or other pleading in the legal proceedings.
Under no circumstances shall the General Synod be made party to litigation without the approval of the Executive Committee of this Council.

CHANGES TO THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS RELATING TO THE MINISTRY ISSUES

It was voted 09-03-EC-30 to adopt the recommendation of the Organizational Life committee and to approve the changes to the United Church of Christ Constitution and Bylaws relating to the Ministry Issues as written in the Constitution in paragraphs 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, and 30 and in the Bylaws in paragraphs 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 110, 131, 134, 135, 137, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 148, 149, 150, 151, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, and 158. The following changes are also recommended:

Paragraph 24 to now read:
Ordained ministerial standing is an ongoing covenant of mutual accountability, as described in Paragraph 25, which recognizes and continues the authorization of that person to perform the duties and exercise the prerogatives of ordained ministry. Ordained ministerial standing in the United Church of Christ is granted by and held in an Association in cooperation with a local church and confers voting membership in the Association.

Paragraph 44 to now read:
When an Association meets, its voting membership includes the lay delegates selected by and representing the Local Churches of that Association, all Ordained Ministers holding standing or ordained ministerial partner standing therein, all Commissioned Ministers and Licensed Ministers of that Association.

Paragraph 46 to now read:
A Conference is that body of the United Church of Christ which is composed of all Local Churches in a geographical area, all Ordained Ministers holding standing or ordained ministerial partner standing in its Associations or in the Conference itself when acting as an Association, all Commissioned Ministers and Licensed Ministers in its Associations.

Paragraph 141 to now read:
A Commissioned Minister who retires from service as a Commissioned Minister may be recognized by the Association as a
Retired Commissioned Minister of the United Church of Christ. Voting membership in that Association is thereby granted. Such recognition is regularly reviewed.

Paragraph 146 to now read:
A Licensed Minister who retires from service as a Licensed Minister may be recognized by the Association as a Retired Licensed Minister of the United Church of Christ. Voting membership in that Association is thereby granted. Such recognition is regularly reviewed.

RETURN TO HISTORICAL NAME, CHRISTMAS FUND FOR THE VETERANS OF THE CROSS AND THE EMERGENCY FUND

It was voted 09-03-EC-31 to adopt the recommendation: that the Executive Council supports a return to the historical name of the UCC Christmas Fund Special Mission Offering to the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund, pending the approval of the Board of Ministerial Assistance.