

Excerpt from the minutes of the 31st General Synod of the United Church of Christ, 2017:

6. ON BECOMING AN IMMIGRANT WELCOMING CHURCH.

Moderator Artt invited Cheryl Lindsay (OHIO) to the podium to present the Resolution On Becoming an Immigrant Welcoming Church.

Cheryl Lindsay introduced the resolution, noted the changes and made a motion on behalf of Committee #7 that the resolution, as amended, On Becoming An Immigrant Welcoming Church be adopted by the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ. Cheryl Lindsay also spoke to the resolution.

Discussion:

Beth Donaldson (MINN) Spoke in favor of the motion.

Bryn Smallwood-Garcia (CONN) Spoke in favor.

Paul Lance (MICH) Spoke in favor.

Sue Joiner (SW) Spoke in favor.

Kerri Parker (WIS) Spoke in favor.

Tara Wilkins (CCP) Spoke in favor.

Felix Villanueva (SC NV) Spoke in favor.

Marc Stewart (MONT, NO, WY) Spoke in favor.

17-GS-10 VOTED: The Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopted the resolution as amended On Becoming an Immigrant Welcoming Church.

**ON BECOMING AN IMMIGRANT WELCOMING CHURCH
A Resolution of Witness**

TEXT OF THE MOTION

Whereas the International Association for Refugees has stated, "The world is in the midst of a long-term refugee crisis;" and

Whereas thousands of refugees and migrants come from throughout the world to the United States seeking safety, security, freedom, and opportunity; and

Whereas our immigrant brothers and sisters continue to suffer as they fear raids, deportation, and seeing their families torn apart; and

Whereas migrants bring us as offerings their stories and experiences, dreams and hopes, energy and skills; and

Whereas our new neighbors experience difficulties adjusting to life in a new country; difficulties such as language barriers, culture shock, a sense of loss and isolation; and

Whereas the welcome and support immigrants receive helps in the building of safe communities and future prosperity; and

Whereas the United Church of Christ (UCC) declares “No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcomed here;”

Whereas the twenty-ninth General Synod passed a compassionate immigration resolution that included encouraging “congregations to further engage in education work on immigration from a faith perspective, participating in border delegations and working toward making your congregation an Immigrant Welcoming Congregation;”

Therefore be it resolved, that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ in Baltimore, Maryland in 2017 declares itself an Immigrant Welcoming Denomination;

Be it further resolved, that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages the development of U.S. policy dedicated to facilitating the respectful welcome and inclusion of all immigrants;

Be it further resolved, that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages the National Setting, Conferences and Associations to call on their members to become active Immigrant Welcoming Congregations and proclaim themselves to be so;

Be it finally resolved, that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ asks the National Setting to provide resources such as, "Becoming an Immigrant Welcoming Congregation - The Journey is Made by Walking," to assist congregations in this process.

Funding:

The funding for the implementation of the Resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

Implementation:

The Collegium of Officers, in consultation with appropriate ministries of other entities within the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.