

Proposed Resolution

Title: A Resolution of Christian Witness in Support of Declaring the New Hampshire Conference to be a Global Mission Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Source: The Commission for Witness and Action

Submitted: July 28, 2011

Contact: Rev. Kim McKerley, PO Box 238, Chester, NH. 887-5319 or 339-0296.
E-mail: mckerley@gsinet.net

Summary and Background Statement

In July, 2009, at the twenty-seventh General Synod of the United Church of Christ, delegates voted to declare the UCC a Global Mission Church. This resolution requests that the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ underscore the priority of the Church to be involved in mission around the world through faith, justice and advocacy and by proclaiming itself a “Global Mission Conference.” Churches involved in global mission will be recognized for their commitment to reach out and respond to needs in the world by being designated as “Global Mission Churches.”

Biblical and Theological Rationale

God’s mission imperative for the Church is to be evangelical, to share the Good News (Gk. “*evangel*”) of Jesus Christ, witnessing, loving, and serving from our doorsteps “to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8). As members of the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ, our mission imperative is “that they may all be one” (John 17:21). This ministry of reconciliation and unity, to which we are called, is both local and global. Wider Church Ministries and Global Ministries partners with churches, conferences, and associations on this journey of faithful mission. The New Hampshire Conference and individual congregations joins in this spirit of collaboration by partnering not only with the national UCC but also with state and local partners called to mission and service.

A global mission church is a vital church. Churches equipped for mission are flexible and growing. Global mission churches have strong local and global relationships, and know that mission involvement brings abundant blessings. The character of a global mission church is expressed in scripture, attesting to the diversity of faithful and vital witness that demonstrates the transformative power of the Good News:

“What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and love mercy and to walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8); and

“At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. Then there will be equality” (2 Corinthians 8:14); and

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God — what is good and acceptable and perfect (Romans 12:2)

Christ calls for a commitment to hear the cries of people around the world; to find the energy and enthusiasm to reach out and respond with grace; to proclaim the joys as well as denounce the suffering of God's people; to seek wisdom and guidance in building global connections in the life of all settings of the church; and to be immersed in the church's work for the healing of the nations.

The New Hampshire Conference, in seeking the designation "Global Mission Conference" will encourage and assist local congregations wishing to seek the designation of "Global Mission Church." As a Conference we will engage in intentional study, exploration, dedication, and growth in order to live out our commitment to global mission. The Conference and members of local churches will:

pray regularly for partners, missionaries and the world,
educate its members about global issues from preschool to adult,
seek justice for the "least of these" in the international community,
receive the gifts of the worldwide Church,
give to the work of global mission,
send its members into the world to share the Good News, and
grow in sharing the story of God's mission with others.

The Resolution

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 the New Hampshire Conference and the Commission for Witness and Action strive to be engaged in vital and faithful global ministries and growing in strong local and global relationships, bringing abundant blessings, creating understanding and building communities of justice and service; and

Whereas the New Hampshire Conference and the Commission for Witness and Action seek to facilitate the engagement of local churches to more intentionally commit to global mission and to seek the "Global Mission Church" designation; 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;

Be it resolved that the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ declares itself a "Global Mission Conference" recognizing this as one of the essential ministries and priorities of our Conference and our local congregations.

Plan of Action

Title: A Resolution of Christian Witness in Support of Declaring the New Hampshire Conference to be a Global Mission Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Source: The Commission for Witness and Action

Submitted: July 28, 2011

Contact: Rev. Kim McKerley, PO Box 238, Chester, NH. 887-5319 or 339-0296.
E-mail: mckerley@gsinet.net

Implementing Body: The Commission for Witness and Action will oversee the implementation of this resolution. Actual work will be provided by the Ministries and Mission Interpreters group (MMI's), which consists of people who have received training on the *Be a Global Mission Church* initiative from the UCC. All efforts will be overseen by the Local Church – Global Ministries Partnership Coordinator.

Anticipated Costs: The MMI's will offer their services to the NH Conference on a volunteer basis. Oversight for this program is provided by the Local Church – Global Ministries Partnership Coordinator, whose position is already funded. Thus there is no additional cost to implement this resolution. It is possible that the Commission for Witness and Action may wish to provide a modest amount of funding as incentive for people to seek training as MMI's.

Directional Statements and Goals: The trained MMI's will offer education and interpretation to local churches and workshops on the Conference level using materials developed and provided by the United Church of Christ.