



Proposed Resolution

RESOLUTION TITLE: ~~Resolution in support of Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago, Illinois. A media-engulfed local church of the United Church of Christ.~~

1. State the purpose or proposed action of this resolution.

The purpose of this resolution for the Rocky Mountain Conference is to provide support of, solidarity with, and education about Trinity United Church of Christ, Chicago, Illinois. This particular resolution was brought for the at the Joint Boards of Ministry meeting April 10-12, 2008 in Cleveland, Ohio, by a Justice and Witness Ministries Board member and was approved by all four Boards of Directors (LCM, WCM, JWM, BGM).

2. The mission and/or teaching ministry of the Conference will be impacted in the following way by this resolution:

Churches in the conference will be challenged to live out the call to care in solidarity for a congregation whose pastoral staff and members have received death threats, undue and biased media attention and treatment, and a host of other pressures. Local bodies of the conference are also called upon to begin education about the context and actualities of the words of Rev. Dr. Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr., as well as engage in sacred conversations of race, made relevant for each local congregation.

3. Identify to whom this resolution is addressed and who will implement it on behalf of the Rocky Mountain Conference.

This resolution is addressed to all congregations, institutions and members of the Rocky Mountain Conference. There is no formal implementation necessary, however, it would be helpful if the Rocky Mountain Conference office possessed resources for assisting congregations in holding sacred conversations about race. The Justice and Peace Ministry Team will also have resources available for people who request assistance.

4. Indicate estimated costs and where the money will come from.

There are no foreseen costs associated with the implementation of this resolution, other than possibly some copying and mailing charged for people who request resources (most of which can be found on the internet).

5. A report back may be called for. If so, to whom, by whom, how and when?

A report back may be requested by the Justice and Peace Ministry Team or the Board of Directors of the Rocky Mountain Conference to local congregations of the conference. This can be done at the 2008 Annual Meeting, or anytime afterward, to be presented at the 2009 Annual Meeting if appropriate or necessary.

Submitted by : *Justice & Peace Ministry Team, Rocky Mountain Conference (JPMT)*



Resolution: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF TRINITY UCC...

WHEREAS The body of Christ does not consist of one member but of many, with all members having the same care for one another (I Corinthians 12:14,25); and

WHEREAS In the United Church of Christ, each local church is free to interpret God's message in their church and community, recognizing that churches may be on different paths on our journeys with the Still Speaking God; and

WHEREAS The United Church of Christ polity affirms the expression of these ideas in the local church when spoken in love and respect and in concern for the presence of God's reign here and now; and

WHEREAS Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago, Illinois, is a local church in the United Church of Christ; and

WHEREAS Trinity United Church of Christ, like many churches of the UCC, has taken seriously its charge to be a prophetic witness to church, community and society; and

WHEREAS In recent weeks, the media and various commentators have challenged, taken out of context and repeatedly broadcast certain controversial and prophetic statements of the Rev. Dr. Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr., Senior Pastor of the Trinity United Church of Christ; and

WHEREAS The United Church of Christ recognizes that many of the statements of the Rev. Dr. Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr. call into question the commitment of the United States to be a land free from racial, economic and social division; and

WHEREAS The United Church of Christ aspires to be a multi-racial, multi-cultural, open and affirming, peace with justice denomination, open to all.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the delegates to the 34th Annual Meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Church of Christ, meeting in Rock Springs, Wyoming, on June 13, 14, 15, 2008, do hereby adopt the following resolution:

1. We stand in solidarity and support of local congregations of the United Church of Christ as they live out their charge to be prophetic witnesses to church, community and society; and
2. We affirm the long-standing Protestant and African American practice of pastors exercising their prophetic roles in the pulpit, in their communities and in the public square; and
3. We resist having the mission of the United Church of Christ defined by political agenda(s); and
4. We hold Trinity United Church of Christ of Chicago, Illinois, its members and pastoral staff, in prayer during this time of challenge; and
5. We affirm and uplift the multiple (over 50) ministries of Trinity United Church of Christ, that address the justice needs of all Americans; and
6. We encourage members of the churches of the Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Church of Christ



Resolution: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF TRINITY UCC...

and others to consider the repeatedly publicized controversial remarks of the Rev. Dr. Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr. in their full and complete context and to inform themselves about Trinity United Church of Christ by accessing <http://www.truthabouttrinity.blogspot.com/>; and

7. We support the national call for all churches of the United Church of Christ to conduct sacred conversations about race, with background information and resources to be provided upon request to local churches and associations of the Rocky Mountain Conference.

END OF RESOLUTION

Signed: Justice & Peace Ministry Team, RMCUCC Date: MAY 5, 2008