

REGARDING THE “EMERGENCY RESOLUTION”

Dear Delegates to the 2024 Annual Celebration,

We had a late piece of business added to our agenda. It comes to us in the form of an “Emergency Resolution” from one of our Illinois Conference Congregations --**St. John UCC-Freeport**. The Conference Executive Committee (serving as the Business Committee of the Annual Celebration) has reviewed the submitted resolution—and determined that it can be placed on the agenda. That means TWO things (and two votes) for you as a delegate:

1. Without having any discussion or debate, the delegates will first decide whether (or not) they wish to consider this emergency resolution as a piece of business. (Thus, waiving the required one year period of study that normally takes place before we debate and vote upon a resolution) . This motion will require a 2/3 majority “yes” vote from the delegates in order for the motion to pass and in order for the resolution to be considered by the delegates.
2. If at least 2/3 of the delegates (who are voting) determine that we will consider this resolution, there will be then be approximately 20 minutes of discussion and debate on the emergency resolution that we received from St. John UCC --Freeport. This will be followed by a vote regarding whether (or not) we wish to adopt the resolution from St. John UCC. That motion also requires a 2/3 majority vote in order for the motion to be passed.

What follows is from an email that I received from the Rev. Hank Fairman, the pastor of the congregation which is submitting the emergency resolution. Hank wrote:

I am submitting the attached Emergency Resolution on behalf of the Council and Leadership Teams of St. John UCC-Freeport, in accordance with the Conference’s submission guidelines. I will act as the point person for the Resolution on their behalf.

The reason for this Resolution to be considered as an Emergency Resolution is twofold:

- **First, the Resolution of Witness was submitted to the General Synod Business Committee on 10/14/2024, with their acknowledgement on the same date. The resolution was not available for submission to the Conference prior to the [deadline?].**
- **Second, the rescheduling of the Illinois Conference Annual Meeting to a fall date has created an issue of our ability to an agile submission of resolutions to General Synod. As described in the Emergency Resolution's text:**

"The scheduling of the Illinois Conference UCC will not meet again for regular business before General Synod 35, prohibiting the Conference’s consideration of the resolution as a Standard Resolution;"

Additionally, it should be noted that the current standing rules do no set out specific submission deadlines for Resolutions for the same reason: the shift to a fall meeting date.

One may infer a deadline of 30 days prior to the meeting from its final paragraphs. However, the published rules are still based on a June meeting schedule, and for the 2018 meeting.

The Submitters ask that the Emergency Resolution and the primary General Synod Resolution of Witness be submitted to the Executive Committee for their approval to the Agenda of the Annual Meeting.

The delegates are receiving two documents (in addition to this letter from me):

- 1) The Emergency Resolution from St. John UCC, Freeport, and;
2. The other resolution to which the St. John resolution is referring to their resolution. That other resolution is entitled: **“Faithful Stewardship of Our Whole Lives and Advocacy for Comprehensive Sexuality Education in Faith Communities through Interfaith Collaboration. A Resolution of Witness”**

Many blessings to each of you!

Rev. Jon Prain
Illinois Conference President