

## A Reflection: GENERAL SYNOD 34 OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Yes, General Synod 34 – the bi-annual meeting of the United Church of Christ – brought together delegates and visitors from all of its Conferences, agencies, colleges and universities, seminaries, and publishing houses. And in the myriad of people, I witnessed a tapestry so vivid and so amazing that I believe it rivaled Joseph's splendid coat of many colors.

Brothers and sisters in Christ trying to discern God's truth and will for our church and for our world was our common ground. But it was the "composition" of those brothers and sisters – my siblings...our siblings – that produced an opera of unparalleled beauty. Straight. Lesbians. Gay. Bi. Trans. Queer. Black. Brown. Yellow. White. Persons from every state in our Union and many countries of our world. All of us...ALL OF US...gathering together as siblings of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ ... as children of our creative and loving God.

Of course, through the course of our sacred work and deliberations, we didn't always agree with one another. But our disagreements were bound together by our holy love and respect for one another.

Yes, in Indianapolis Convention Center, I not just witnessed but I experienced a glimpse of the church of Jesus Christ BEING and LIVING and BREATHING as the prophets of old, as the Apostles of biblical times, as the Visionaries of our time believed it could be...believed it should be.

Our United Church of Christ --- not perfect but promising to continue trying...not perfect but striving to live one with another in sacred covenant with our God, our Savior, and the inspiring Spirit that makes us one! We, together, with God, can and will MAKE ALL THINGS NEW! (foundation IS 43:18-19)