

A RESOLUTION OF DECOMMISSIONING THE SPECIAL COMMISSION FOR THE JUST REBUILDING OF THE GULF COAST

Whereas in November 2005, the National Council of Churches and Church World Service committed themselves to a Special Commission for the Just Rebuilding of the Gulf Coast, and

Whereas the ensuing five years saw the Special Commission vigorously engaged in carrying out its purpose, which was to advocate for the greatest degree of coherence and comprehensiveness in efforts to rebuild Gulf Coast communities and to address the human inequities which helped turn a natural disaster into a wholesale calamity, and

Whereas the Special Commission has helped, through a widely publicized Report Card, to bring into the open both the good works and human failings of federal, state and local agencies that marked the response to the disaster, and

Whereas the Special Commission has organized annual Ecumenical Work Weeks, bringing hundreds of people of faith to the Gulf to work with their hands and hearts to help rebuild and refurbish scores of homes and structures damaged by the hurricane, and

Whereas the Special Commission made intimate contact with thousands of individuals who lost loved ones, homes, churches and livelihoods as a result of the hurricane, many of whom offer their testimony that, when they needed help the most, it was the church and church folks who were among the first to come, worked the hardest and stayed the longest, and

Whereas the Special Commission pressed local, state and federal officials, as well as a wide range of persons in the private sector, to work for just rebuilding in the Gulf without regard for political or economic advantage, and

Whereas the work of the Special Commission has established clear goals and visions for the role of the church in dealing with natural disasters, and

Whereas the work in the Gulf continues under the faithful stewardship of many communions, congregations and individuals,

Now therefore the 2010 General Assembly of the National Council of Churches and Church World Service decommissions the Special Commission for the Just Rebuilding of the Gulf Coast with thanks to the individuals who worked so hard to ensure that the Commission fulfill its goals, and with eternal gratitude for God's justice, God's healing power and God's love for all.

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