

1 Pilgrim Press and United Church Resources hon-  
2 ored: Lloyd Steffen with its Church and Society  
3 Award  
4 Maren C. Tirabassi with its Leadership Award

5  
6 The first Virginia Kreyer Award was given to: The  
7 Rev. Virginia Kreyer of Long Island, New York, a  
8 pioneer in UCC Disabilities Ministries

9  
10 UCC Disabilities Ministries also honored:  
11 Robert Deblois of Sekonk Congregational Church  
12 in the Rhode Island Conference  
13 Jan Fadley of North Congregational UCC in  
14 Columbus, Ohio, Ohio Conference  
15 The Church Support Network of Dublin  
16 Community Church UCC

17  
18 The Antoinette Brown Award was given to:  
19 The Rev. Betty Jane Bailey of West Orange,  
20 New Jersey  
21 The Rev. Maria Teresa Unger Palmer of  
22 Chapel Hill, North Carolina

23  
24 Justice and Witness Ministries conferred the fol-  
25 lowing awards:  
26 Local Church Award: Ainsworth UCC  
27 Clergy Award: the Rev. Donald Benedict  
28 Laity Award: Ms. Roberta Perry  
29 Grass Roots Award: Juan Antonio Corretjer,  
30 Puerto Rican Cultural Center  
31 Youth/Young Adult Award: Marcus Lewis

32  
33 More than eighty outstanding women were recog-  
34 nized at the Synod as Honored Laywomen.

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36 Following applause for all those being honored,  
37 Ms. Powell led the assembled delegation in a prayer  
38 of thanksgiving.

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40 **5. INTRODUCTION OF CANDIDATE FOR**  
41 **EXECUTIVE MINISTER OF LOCAL**  
42 **CHURCH MINISTRIES**

43 Mr. Harter reminded delegates that they would be  
44 electing persons to serve as General Minister and  
45 President and Executive Minister of Local Church  
46 Ministries. He directed the delegates to page 126  
47 of the *Program, Worship, and Business Book* for a  
48 description of the search process and the names of  
49 the nominees.

50  
51 He called on Ms. Cheryl Cramer (SC), Chair of  
52 the Board of Directors for Local Church Minis-  
53 tries, who introduced the Rev. José A. Malayang,  
54 the candidate for Executive Minister of Local  
55 Church Ministries. Ms. Cramer spoke of the won-  
56 derful work that had been done by Mr. Malayang  
57 and expressed the hope that the delegates would  
58 affirm his work by reelecting him to the position  
59 of Executive Minister of Local Church Ministries.

Mr. Malayang spoke, sharing some of his family history and the reasons Local Church Ministries has a special meaning for him. He included his hopes and vision for the future of the Ministry.

**6. INTRODUCTION OF CANDIDATE FOR**  
**GENERAL MINISTER AND PRESIDENT**

Mr. Harter called upon Mr. Kekapa Lee (HI), Vice Chair of the Executive Council, who introduced the Rev. John H. Thomas, candidate for General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. Mr. Lee noted the diversity of gifts that made Mr. Thomas the Search Committee's choice for President.

Mr. Thomas spoke on the theme of the Twenty-third General Synod, "Gather at the Welcome Table," how the United Church of Christ embodies the spirit of the Welcome Table, and what needs to be done to continue fulfilling that vocation.

**7. REPORT: CONTINUING NEED FOR THE**  
**PACIFIC ISLANDER ASIAN AMERICAN**  
**IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE**

Mr. Harter introduced Mr. John Lardin (MICH), Chair of the Evaluation and Planning Committee of the Executive Council, to introduce two actions. Mr. Lardin explained the history of the Pacific Islander/Asian American Implementation Team and the Hispanic Ministries Implementation Team and the need for Synod action to continue their work. He drew attention to the reports on pages 125 and 128 of the *Program, Worship, and Business Book*. He then moved that the Twenty-third General Synod receive the report of the Pacific Islander Asian American Ministries Implementation Team and continue its existence for the 2001–2003 biennium.

01-GS-10 VOTED: The Twenty-third General Synod receives the report of the Pacific Islander/Asian American Ministries Implementation Team and continues its existence for the 2001–2003 biennium.

**8. REPORT: CONTINUING NEED FOR THE**  
**HISPANIC MINISTRIES IMPLEMENTATION**  
**TEAM**

Mr. Lardin moved that the Twenty-third General Synod receive the report of the Hispanic Ministries Implementation Team and continue its existence for the 2001–2003 biennium.

01-GS-11 VOTED: The Twenty-third General Synod receives the report of the Hispanic Ministries Implementation Team and continues its existence for the 2001–2003 biennium.

**9. RESOLUTION: ANTI-SEMITISM**

Mr. Harter drew the attention of the delegates to the resolution "Anti-Semitism," on page 137 of the *Program, Worship, and Business Book*. He then called on

1 Mr. Brian Lapis (CONN), member of the Execu-  
2 tive Council, who moved the adoption of the reso-  
3 lution and spoke to it.  
4

5 Jack Kemp (MN) rose to voice two concerns. He  
6 suggested that the scope of anti-Semitism was not  
7 just Jewish people, but Arabs as well. He wished  
8 the United Church of Christ to stand as firmly with  
9 Arab sisters and brothers as it does with those who  
10 are Jewish. His second point was that anti-Semitism  
11 was often a fallacious charge used to oppose a given  
12 action, and all need to be alert to which charges  
13 are legitimate and which are not.  
14

15 01-GS-12 VOTED: The Twenty-third General  
16 Synod adopts the resolution "Anti-Semitism."  
17

### 18 **Anti-Semitism**

19

20 WHEREAS, when Jesus was asked what was the  
21 greatest commandment, he responded quoting  
22 Hebrew scripture, "You shall love the Lord your  
23 God with all your heart, and with all your soul,  
24 and with all your mind. This is the greatest and  
25 first commandment. And a second is like it. You  
26 shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two  
27 commandments hang all the law and the proph-  
28 ets" (Matthew 22:37-40);  
29

30 WHEREAS, the shootings that occurred at the  
31 Hebrew day care center in California shocked the  
32 nation and should be a wake up call for all Chris-  
33 tians to denounce anti-Semitism;  
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35 WHEREAS anti-Semitism has been deeply embed-  
36 ded in Christian tradition;  
37

38 WHEREAS anti-Semitism violates Christ's call  
39 to love our neighbors as ourselves;  
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41 WHEREAS Judaism is the foundation of our  
42 faith; and  
43

44 WHEREAS the delegates to the Sixteenth General  
45 Synod (1987) of the United Church of Christ stated,  
46 "We in the United Church of Christ acknowledge  
47 that the Christian Church has, throughout much of  
48 its history, denied God's continuing covenantal  
49 relationship with the Jewish people expressed in  
50 the faith of Judaism. This denial often has led to  
51 outright rejection of the Jewish people and theo-  
52 logically and humanly intolerable violence";  
53

54 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the  
55 delegates to the Twenty-third General Synod of the  
56 United Church of Christ, do confess the sin of anti-  
57 Semitism and renounce it, knowing that Jews are  
58 children of God to be loved as we love ourselves  
59 in the way that Christ has commanded us;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we invite the Jus-  
tice and Witness Ministries of the United Church of  
Christ to utilize all rapid response networks to notify  
Conferences that will in turn notify congregations when  
there is a need to take action against anti-Semitism in  
a crisis;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge our na-  
tional representatives to speak out against anti-  
Semitism in all appropriate circumstances;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage  
all churches of the United Church of Christ to build  
relationships of mutual respect and friendship with  
their nearby synagogues through interfaith ex-  
changes such as church school, youth and adult ed-  
ucation programs, cooperative service projects, and  
social interactions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United Church  
of Christ actively seek and develop relationships of  
mutual respect and understanding with our Jewish  
brothers and sisters in all settings of the church.

Funding for this action will be made in accordance with  
the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the  
funds available.

### **10. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Harter called on Ms. Guffey for the evening ann-  
ouncements. Ms. Guffey reported that the offering re-  
ceived during Friday evening's worship service totaled  
\$12,352.72 and was designated for Harmony,  
an organization in Kansas City working to improve  
race relations and increase appreciation for cultural  
diversity and eliminate intolerance.

### **11. RECESS**

Mr. Harter declared the third plenary of the Twenty-  
third General Synod to be completed and the Synod to  
be in recess until 8:30 a.m. on Sunday morning.

## **MONDAY MORNING, JULY 16, 2001 Joint Plenary Session**

### **1. INTRODUCTION AND BIBLE STORY- TELLING**

Ms. Bessler Northcutt began the plenary by leading  
the delegates in song; Richard Ward and Jane Anne  
Ferguson then told a dramatic Bible story.

### **2. PRAYER**

Ms. Bessler Northcutt lit the Christ candle and led the  
delegates in an opening prayer.