

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

5 **8. RESOLUTION: JUVENILE JUSTICE**

6 Ms. Jaramillo recognized Ms. Amarilys Ramos
7 (PR), the chair of Committee Four, to present the
8 resolution, "Juvenile Justice." Ms. Ramos noted
9 changes to the original document which could be
10 found in the distributed materials (blue packet). She
11 moved adoption of the resolution as amended in
12 committee.

14 Douglas Anderson (MASS) proposed an amend-
15 ment to change "sexual preference" to "sexual
16 orientation."

18 01-GS-24 VOTED: The Twenty-third General
19 Synod amends the resolution, "Juvenile Justice,"
20 to replace the words "sexual preference" with the
21 words "sexual orientation."

23 Sheila Whetzel (CAC) moved to amend the
24 resolution by changing the word "orientation" to
25 "identity."

27 01-GS-25 VOTED with abstentions: The Twenty-
28 third General Synod amends the resolution,
29 "Juvenile Justice," to replace the word "orienta-
30 tion" with the word "identity."

32 William Abraham (MICH) questioned the vote due
33 to confusion regarding what sign delegates were
34 to use when voting. The Assistant Moderator asked
35 the delegates to vote again and the decision to
36 amend was affirmed.

38 Ms. Jaramillo called for the vote on the amended
39 resolution.

41 01-GS-26 VOTED with abstentions: The Twenty-
42 third General Synod adopts the resolution "Juve-
43 nile Justice."

45 **JUVENILE JUSTICE**

47 WHEREAS children and youth are important
48 members of our families, churches, and communi-
49 ties;

51 WHEREAS Jesus reached out to the children with
52 love and compassion when his disciples sought to
53 send them away;

55 WHEREAS Jesus demonstrated through his min-
56 istry the importance of caring for offenders and in-
57 dicated our responsibility to do the same when he
58 said, "I was sick and you cared for me; I was in
59 prison and you visited me";

WHEREAS the criminal justice system in the United
States has adopted a more punitive approach to juve-
nile offenders in the last two decades;

WHEREAS in the last six years, forty-three states have
instituted legislation facilitating the transfer of juve-
niles to adult court, and all fifty states have laws al-
lowing juveniles to be tried as adults;

WHEREAS the juvenile justice system of the United
States arrests, detains, charges, convicts, and penal-
izes young people in an unfair manner, resulting in dis-
proportionate numbers of poor youth and youth of color
represented in the juvenile justice system;

WHEREAS the justice system, including the juvenile
justice system, has become a repository for people with
mental illnesses and behavioral disorders, but provides
little, if any, care appropriate to treating and healing
such illnesses, especially among young people;

WHEREAS youthful detention has been shown to teach
skill in crime and deceit rather than educating people
in high standards for life and ethical solutions to ad-
dress life problems, and youth engaged in the criminal
justice system often become enmeshed in such sys-
tems to their detriment, foregoing education and op-
portunity to the detriment of us all;

WHEREAS current legislative efforts are being made
in the United States to legalize the imprisonment of
children as young as ten years old for the commission
of felonies, and

WHEREAS the United Nations Subcommittee On the
Promotion and Protection of Human Rights resolved
in August 2000 that the execution of people who were
under the age of eighteen at the time of the crime "is
contrary to customary international law," and the
United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
(article 37(a), 1995) states: "neither capital punishment
nor life imprisonment without possibility of release
shall be imposed for offenses committed by persons
below eighteen years of age," but the United States
continues to refuse to ratify this convention, and youth
in the United States who committed crimes before the
age of eighteen are vulnerable to capital punishment
or life imprisonment; and

WHEREAS the teachings of Jesus hold us personally
accountable to care for those who have been victim-
ized and beaten down, as he illustrated in the story of
the good Samaritan, and taught us to love all people,
including those of us who have sinned, as he illustrated
throughout his ministry;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-
third General Synod of the United Church of Christ
expresses its concern for the injustices of the juvenile
justice system which affect the lives of many young
people and their families, and thanks those United

1 Church of Christ pastors, chaplains, and members
2 who provide support for juvenile offenders and
3 their families;

4
5 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Twenty-
6 third General Synod of the United Church of Christ
7 affirms advocacy for fair and appropriate treatment
8 of youth, especially as they are involved with or at
9 risk for involvement with the criminal justice sys-
10 tem, and encourages the provision of pastoral care,
11 communities of Christian love, healthy alternatives
12 to criminal involvement, and strong and effective
13 leadership for our youth;

14
15 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Twenty-
16 third General Synod of the United Church of Christ
17 calls upon Justice and Witness Ministries, in part-
18 nership with other national organizations and agen-
19 cies addressing issues of juvenile justice, to rigor-
20 ously seek to advocate for just, appropriate, and
21 ethical methods to address juvenile crimes and to
22 reduce the excessive use of police force, racial pro-
23 filing, and substantial biases in the criminal jus-
24 tice system that favor some and disfavor others
25 according to class, race, ethnicity, sexual identity,
26 physical and/or mental ability, heritage, or other
27 general classifications;

28
29 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Twenty-
30 third General Synod of the United Church of Christ
31 calls upon Justice and Witness Ministries, in co-
32 operation with local churches, Associations, Con-
33 ferences, other covenanted ministries, the United
34 Church of Christ Urban Ministries Network, and
35 other appropriate groups, to encourage visitation,
36 counseling, ongoing pastoral care, and education
37 for youth in the criminal justice system or who are
38 at risk for crime;

39
40 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Twenty-
41 third General Synod of the United Church of Christ
42 calls upon Justice and Witness Ministries to work
43 collaboratively and in an ecumenical and interfaith
44 spirit with other religious communities and groups
45 to encourage effective diversion and counseling
46 programs and advocate for restorative justice prin-
47 ciples as alternatives to incarceration of youth; and

48
49 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the Twenty-
50 third General Synod of the United Church of Christ
51 calls upon Justice and Witness Ministries, in part-
52 nership with local, state, and national organizations,
53 to continue to work with legislative bodies to ad-
54 vocate fair and effective legislation to protect ju-
55 veniles from early convictions and imprisonment,
56 life sentences, and capital punishment, and to edu-
57 cate, protect, and provide opportunities for the well-
58 being of our future generations.

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with the overall mandates of the affected agencies
and the funds available.

9. BUDGET ALLOCATIONS FOR 2001–2003

Ms. Jaramillo recognized Mr. Ray Young (MONT-NO. WYO), Chair of the Finance and Budget Committee of the Executive Council, who moved that the General Synod recess for an open hearing on the proposed Budget Allocation.

01-GS-27 VOTED: The Twenty-third General Synod agrees to recess for an open hearing on the proposed Budget Allocation.

10. OPEN HEARING ON THE BUDGET

Kathy Houston, Treasurer for Local Church Ministries; Ann Kiernozek, Treasurer for Wider Church Ministries; and William Morgan, Chief Financial Officer, explained the proposed budget, providing historical information on Our Church's Wider Mission and then answered questions from the delegates.

Following the Open Hearing, Ms. Jaramillo called the Synod back to order. Following a brief break, she turned over the Moderator's gavel to Assistant Moderator Harter.

11. REPORT ON THE COST OF RESTRUCTURE

Mr. Harter invited General Minister and President, John Thomas, to present a report on the cost of restructure. Mr. Thomas reminded the delegates that the report could be found on pages 82–84 of the *Program, Worship and Business Book*. He expressed gratitude to Mr. Robert Witham, who had given outstanding leadership to the restructure process. The Synod gave Mr. Witham a standing ovation. Mr. Thomas shared some of the highlights of the transition that could not be adequately expressed through the report. There were two reasons that the costs were more than had been projected: first, the severance package that was offered to people who were no longer employed as a result of the restructure and the number of people eligible for the severance package; and second, the major reconfiguration of office space. Mr. Thomas explained how the over-expenditure would be covered with unrestricted endowment funds and reserves of the Covenanted Ministries.

12. RESOLUTION: DECLARING JUBILEE, A CALL FOR A NEW DAY IN THE SPIRIT OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Mr. Harter recognized the Rev. Dannie Williams (SOC), Chair of Committee Seven. Mr. Williams spoke of the work of the Committee and moved the adoption of the resolution, "Declaring Jubilee: A Call for a New Day in the Spirit of the United Church of Christ." On behalf of the Committee, he recommended that the General Synod take no action.

There was some confusion among the delegates as to what a vote of no action on the resolution would mean. Brief discussion of the pros and cons followed. Ms. Sarah Smith, representing Ministers in Higher Educa-