

1 **15. RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO (THE**
2 **BYLAWS OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF**
3 **CHRIST)**

4 Mr. Harter called on Ms. Linda Miller-Pretz (PW),
5 Chair of Committee Nine. Ms. Miller-Pretz referred
6 delegates to the printed document on recommended
7 changes to *The Bylaws*. After recognizing the mem-
8 bers of the Committee for their work, she moved
9 the adoption of the recommended changes to *The*
10 *Bylaws of the United Church of Christ*. Ms. Miller-
11 Pretz yielded her time to the Rev. Charlotte Frantz
12 who explained that the proposed changes prima-
13 rily dealt with the restructure of leadership.

14 Mr. William Miles (WI) pointed out that some del-
15 egates had not received the information on the by-
16 law changes and moved that the General Synod
17 table the issue until Tuesday.

18 01-GS-29 VOTED: The Twenty-third General
19 Synod tables the motion to amend *The Bylaws*
20 until Tuesday.

21 John Corbin (OH) called for a recount of the vote.
22 Mr. Harter declared that the need to progress with
23 our work was important, and that it would be pru-
24 dent to move along and address *The Bylaws* on
25 Tuesday. The delegates agreed. Ms. Frantz asked
26 what items delegates needed to be prepared for the
27 discussion on Tuesday.

28 **16. RESOLUTION: PROGRAM FOR ES-**
29 **SENTIAL CONFERENCE MINISTRY**

30 Ms. Miller-Pretz moved the adoption of the reso-
31 lution "Program for Essential Conference Min-
32 istry." Mr. Jack Seville (WIS) and Mr. George
33 Worcester (NE), members of the Committee, spoke
34 in favor of the resolution. Ms. Betsy Bennett
35 (MASS) urged support and encouraged discussion
36 within the local church.

37 01-GS-30 VOTED: The Twenty-third General
38 Synod adopts the resolution "Program for Essen-
39 tial Conference Ministry."

40 **PROGRAM FOR ESSENTIAL CONFER-**
41 **ENCE MINISTRY**

42 The Twenty-third General Synod affirms as basic
43 policy that all Conferences should have essential
44 Conference ministry to be able to accomplish the
45 basic responsibilities in the United Church of Christ
46 as outlined in the Bylaws. Further, the General
47 Synod affirms that establishing and providing
48 financing for the Essential Conference Ministry An-
49 nual Fund is a basic strategy for assisting
50 all Conferences to maintain adequate Conference
51 ministry.

**CRITERIA, GUIDELINES, AND PROCEDURES
FOR FUNDING ESSENTIAL CONFERENCE
MINISTRY**

The purpose of this resolution is to assist small
membership, large geographical Conferences of the
United Church of Christ to provide staff leadership for
Conference ministry. This fund will enable Conferences
to provide the capacity to engage in their necessary
ministries.

1. Each Conference board of directors is to be respon-
sible for determining its own staffing pattern and needs.
If, after careful, genuine, and prayerful reflection,
exploration and analysis, a Conference determines
that it has the financial resources to fund only a por-
tion or not any of an additional Conference minister,
but that its ministry requires additional staff, the Con-
ference shall then be eligible to apply to the Essential
Conference Ministry Annual Fund to assist in its addi-
tional staffing needs.

2. The Essential Conference Ministry Annual Fund is
solely for the purpose of finding additional or associ-
ate Conference ministry staff; it is not to be used for
program, meetings, support staff, or general budget-
ary items.

Proposals to the Essential Conference Ministry Annual
Fund shall be written by the respective Conference
seeking the Funds. They shall gather and assemble all
the necessary documentation they deem appropriate.
The proposal should include information about the
resources the Conference itself brings. The request
for funds would then come from the Conference and
be reviewed, first by their region,¹ to garner support.

3. Following these steps, the proposal would be for-
warded to the Cabinet of the Council of Conference
Ministers, the Office of General Ministries, and Local
Church Ministries. The Cabinet and the national min-
istries, working together, shall be the decision-making
body. The Cabinet is responsible for initiating and over-
seeing these activities. They shall review, discuss, and
make further inquiry, if necessary, about each proposal.
They shall review and award each grant, if approved,
in a timely manner and expedient fashion.

4. The Council for Conference Ministers shall act as
treasurer. Initially, the highest grant awarded will be
\$45,000 annually.² Grants may be five-year renewable
grants upon evaluation and recommendation by the
region.

The General Synod requests the Office of General
Ministries, Local Church Ministries,³ and the Confer-
ences to participate in securing and/or providing
\$100,000 for the Essential Conference Ministry
Annual Fund in addition to the \$100,000 provided
currently.

1 The primary implementing body is the Council of
2 Conference Ministers with financial and other
3 forms of assistance from the Office of General Min-
4 istries and Local Church Ministries.

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6 The General Synod requests the Council of Con-
7 ference Ministers, as implementers of the Fund, to
8 report on its activities in its biennial report to the
9 General Synod.

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

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16 **Notes:**

- 17 1. The six regions vary greatly throughout the
18 United Church of Christ. Therefore, it is
19 suggested the Conference ministers of each
20 region assume responsibility for determining
21 how the region will fulfill its responsibility.
22 2. Depending on the economy, this figure may
23 need to be revisited from time to time.
24 3. The procedure for review to be determined by
25 the Executive Minister of the Ministry.

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28 **17. RESOLUTION: REAFFIRMING THE**
29 **TRINITARIAN BASIS OF OUR ECUMEN-**
30 **ISM**

31 Mr. Harter called on Mr. Dennis Johnson (MA),
32 Chair of Committee Five, who moved the adop-
33 tion of the resolution “Reaffirming the Trinitarian
34 Basis of our Ecumenism.” Mr. Johnson shared the
35 Committee’s recommendation to defeat the reso-
36 lution. While noting the importance of the Trinity
37 within the United Church of Christ, he said the
38 Committee felt that the basis for the resolution was
39 a curriculum, not really the doctrine of the Trinity.
40 He also expressed concern that no member of the
41 Unitarian Universalist Association was available
42 to speak to the issue. He rejected the “slippery
43 slope” theory.

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45 The Rev. David Runnion-Bareford spoke in favor
46 of the resolution, affirming that the Trinity was
47 what the resolution was about. He expressed un-
48 certainty about the relationship with the Unitarian
49 Universalist Association. The Rev. Paul Ashby
50 (CAL S) welcomed all ecumenical partners, and
51 was joyful about the Unitarian Universalist
52 Association’s votes to abolish slavery, ordain
53 women, stand against gun violence, and march for
54 civil rights. He wished that they could have shared
55 in the dialogue. The Rev. Mary Ann Neevel (WIS),
56 a member of Committee Five, stated that the Ninth
57 General Synod took a stand expressing the
58 trinitarian faith of the United Church of Christ. At
59 no time had the General Synod taken action to
change that trinitarian belief. Ms. Donna Collins

(SOC), a member of Committee Five, said that the big-
gest problem was that the title did not agree with the
body of the resolution. The curriculum in question was
the basis of the problem. Mr. Zoltan Szucs (OHIO) said
that the resolution was unnecessary.

The Rev. William Miles (WI) called for the question.

The resolution, “Reaffirming the Trinitarian Basis of
our Ecumenism,” was defeated.

18. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Assistant Moderator Harter called the order of the day
and recognized Ms. Edith Guffey for the afternoon
announcements.

19. RECESS

Mr. Harter declared the fifth plenary to be complete
and the General Synod to be in recess until Tuesday
morning at 8:30 a.m.

TUESDAY, MORNING JULY 17, 2001
Joint Plenary Session

1. CALL TO ORDER

Assistant Moderator Linda Jaramillo called the third
joint plenary of General Synod/Assembly to order at
8:38 a.m.

2. ELECTION RESULTS

The Assistant Moderator announced the results of elec-
tions for the General Synod Nominating Committee,
class of 2007:

Class of 2007—Clergy
Julia Tipton Rendon (IOWA)
Susan A. Henderson (NH)
Keith Mills (NOPL)

Class of 2007—Laypersons
Linda Bixby (MASS)
Elizama Velasquez (PR)
Joe Thomas (CANVN)

Class of 2007—Historically Under-represented Groups
Andrew Goedeken (CYYAM)
Mary J. Fairley (MRSEJ)

3. FINAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE
COUNCIL; ADOPTION OF THE BUDGET AL-
LOCATIONS FOR 2002–2003 BUDGET YEARS

Ms. Jaramillo introduced Mr. David Anderson, Chair-
person of the Executive Council, who reminded the
delegates that the discussion of budget was a continu-
ation of the conversation from the previous plenary on
the Budget Allocations for the 2002 and 2003 budget
years.