

Special Recognition to:

Trinity UCC, Chicago for their strong, continuous support of the Justice and Witness Ministries Scholarship Program

Ms. Verna Uthman, for her many years of voluntarily tracking United Nations activities and programs on behalf of the United Church of Christ

From Local Church Ministries:

The Antoinette Brown Award to Ruth C. Duck and LaVerne McCain

Gill Excellence in Teaching Awards to Marge Bluhm, Curtis Johnson, Margaret Mills, Janet Scott and Carol Wilson

God is Still speaking Awards to Caroline Bail, Margaret Borrelli and Kathryn Ketchum

Recognition of Outstanding Contributions to Church Development to

Trinity United Church of Christ, Chicago and the Indiana-Kentucky Conference

The Pilgrim Press Mayflower Awards to

Barbara J. Essex, Leanne McCall Tigert and Timothy Brown, and F. Russell Mitman

United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries Award

Hugh V. Nash

United Church of Christ Mental Illness Network Dell Award to Joyce and Bob Dell

and All Honored Laywomen

From Wider Church Ministries:

Individual Awards of Affirmation to Dr. Zakaria Ngelow and the Rev. Shengjie Cao.

The delegates expressed their appreciation with a standing ovation.

Ms. Guffey offered a prayer of gratitude for their service and faithfulness.

17. THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AND THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Moderator Nate Lewis called on Rev. Charles Buck (HI) Chairperson of Committee Thirteen who reported on the three items of business from that committee.

Rev. Buck indicated that the three resolutions received by the Committee were similar in intent and therefore recommended that they be considered in a consolidated resolution entitled "The United Church of Christ and the Boy Scouts of America."

On behalf of the Committee, Rev. Buck moved that the Twenty-fourth General Synod adopt the resolution "The United Church of Christ and the Boy Scouts of America."

Rev. Mark Mendes (MASS) moved to amend the resolution after the second LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED to delete "that we support..." and the rest of that paragraph, and insert in lieu, "we encourage congregations to remain in dialogue with the Boy Scouts of America so that our prophetic vision might continue to challenge entrenched attitudes and change hearts."

The amended was seconded.

Ms Anna Magis-Agosta (CPC) rose to a Point of Personal Privilege urging the delegates to postpone action on this resolution as many of the youth delegates were not present. This resolution had originally not been scheduled for this time.

Ms. Katelyn MacRae (ME) moved to postpone debate until Plenary Four. The motion was seconded.

03-GS-21 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod postpones debate on the resolution "The United Church of Christ and the Boy scouts of America" until Plenary Four.

18. U.S. POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Moderator Lewis called on Rev. Beth Hyde (RM), Chairperson for Committee Three, who introduced and moved the adoption of the resolution "U.S. Policy in the Middle East" as amended by Committee.

3. Charles Simonson (CONN) invited all to learn more about the Iona Community in Scotland by looking at a video, taking brochures, or coming tomorrow afternoon when he will host a one hour informational talk in Room 101D of the Convention Center.
4. Sachi Fujita (PAAM/ HI) reminded everyone that in 1954 the United States military did not relocate Micronesian women before nuclear testing began. Before they knew it, powder had fallen down on them. Soon their hair fell out and deformed babies were born. The women seek an apology from the United States government.
5. Robert Koth (SW) spoke regarding immigrant rights. He encouraged people to stop by the Justice/Witness booth and pick up information.
6. Earl Menchhofer (IL) told General Synod that his father had attended seventeen general synods as a visitor. During that time he had always paid all of his own expenses from his own salary as a pastor and retired pastor. Mr. Menchhofer thanked God for those who this year helped his father with cost of lodging and food so he could once again attend.
7. Marvin Silver (Justice and Peace Action Network) encouraged delegates to sign up for ucctakeaction.org.
8. Barbara Kershner Daniel (PSE) introduced Rev. Riess Potterveld, Tenth President of Lancaster Seminary. He thanked those who had offered prayers during the search process.
9. Kalelyn Macrae (ME), Melanie Morrison (MICH) Carl Cuffee (SOC) noted that the first action of Synod was to approve the report of the credentials committee. They asked why the delegates were not supplied with demographic information about the

present delegates as they need to be assured that there is accurate representation of diversity.

10. John Stansell (United Church of Christ Musicians Association/CONN) informed the Synod that they provide consultation for churches seeking musicians. Their next conference is July 25, 2004. More information can be found at uccma.org. He noted that Local Church Ministries sponsors the United Church of Christ Musicians Network whose next conference is August 3-6, 2003.

11. Roger Mealiff (WIS) invited all to Sheboygan during the Amistad event and invited them to the Shelby Banks concert in Sheboygan during that time.

3. PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATE FOR ASSOCIATE GENERAL MINISTER

Ms. Olgha Sierra Sandman, Chair of the Executive Council, introduced Ms. Edith Guffey, Nominee for Associate General Minister. The Search committee recommended that Ms. Guffey be reelected for her second four-year term in the new structure of the United Church of Christ.

4. CANDIDATE SPEECH FOR ASSOCIATE GENERAL MINISTER

Ms. Guffey shared with the General Synod her personal journey in becoming a member of the United Church of Christ. She spoke of her conviction that administration is ministry and affirmed her commitment to the vision of the United Church of Christ as it strives to become multiracial, multicultural, open and affirming and accessible to all.

5. THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AND THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Assistant Moderator Wassmuth called upon Mr. Charles Buck, Chair of Committee Thirteen. As this was a continuation from Plenary Three, no further presentation was needed by the body. Mr. Buck moved that the Twenty-fourth General Synod adopt the resolution "The United Church of Christ and the Boy Scouts of America."

Two amendments to the resolution were defeated.

03-GS-25 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod adopts the resolution "The United Church of Christ and the Boy Scouts of America.

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AND THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

WHEREAS, Jesus' prayer, "that they may all be one" (John 17:21) offers the guiding vision of the United Church of Christ and invites us to celebrate the gifts and graces of all God's children; and

WHEREAS, Paul wrote, "The body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ....Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it" (1 Corinthians 12:12, 27); and

WHEREAS, the Boy Scouts of America has offered generations of youth and adults opportunities to build friendships and foster mentoring relationships, develop leadership skills, and embody values that encourage a reverence for the earth and service on behalf of others; and

WHEREAS, the Boy Scouts of America established a policy in 1978 of not accepting gay youth and adults and in February 2002 reaffirmed its discriminatory policies and practices upon the recommendation and by action of the Relationships Committee of the National Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court has recently (June 2000) upheld the right of the Boy Scouts of America to set membership criteria; thus effectively allowing them to exclude homosexuals as members or leaders or as professional or non-professional employees; and

WHEREAS, various settings of the United Church of Christ, in various actions and communications, have requested that the

National Council of the Boy Scouts of America cease its discriminatory practices against gay youth and adults and allow local scouting units autonomy and therefore variance from the Boy Scouts of America's discriminatory policies and practices; and

WHEREAS, the discriminatory policies of the Boy Scouts of America have caused pain to gay and bisexual youth and adults in the United Church of Christ, as well as to their heterosexual peers, families, and allies; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the United Church of Christ Coalition for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Concerns has endorsed "Scouting for All," an organization which works for the inclusion of all in scouting, regardless of sexual or affectional orientation; and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ believes in a gospel that affirms and welcomes all, including gay and bisexual youth and adults, and we believe that the discriminatory policies and practices of the Boy Scouts of America invite gay or bisexual persons to feel diminished, invisible, and marginalized.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that we, the delegates to the Twenty-fourth General Synod of the United Church of Christ reaffirm our belief that discrimination against anyone based on sexual orientation is contrary to our understanding of the teachings of Christ; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that we encourage the use of the local church resource packet, "The United Church of Christ Local Churches and the Boy Scouts of America" (2001), prepared by the Covenanted Ministries of the United Church of Christ; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that we support the actions of congregations within a full range of options, including those who wish to sever their ties to the Boy Scouts of America and those who wish to remain in dialogue and connection with the Boy Scouts of America; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that we direct the Collegium and encourage other

settings of the church to urge the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America to adopt a membership policy that does not discriminate based on sexual orientation, and that allows for the reactivation of membership of persons who were previously excluded solely on that basis; and

LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED, that we prayerfully refer this issue to the local churches, Associations, Conferences, General Synod, and other settings of the United Church of Christ for study, discernment, and advocacy.

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

6. IN HONOR OF SENATOR PAUL WELLSTONE

Moderator Nate Lewis called upon Karli Purscell, Chair of Committee Eleven, who then moved the adoption of the resolution "In Honor of Senator Paul Wellstone."

A motion to amend the resolution was made by Matthew Wooster (OH) to delete the paragraph beginning LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED on page two. The amendment was seconded.

03-GS-26 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod accepts the amendment to delete the paragraph beginning LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED.

03-GS-27 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod adopts the resolution as amended, "In Honor of Senator Paul Wellstone."

IN HONOR OF SENATOR PAUL WELLSTONE

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has declared itself a just peace church, and many local churches have declared themselves just peace churches; and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ acknowledges the void, in his absence, of an

equivalent impassioned, tireless advocate for the moral missions that Senator Wellstone represented; and

WHEREAS, Senator Wellstone spoke tirelessly and passionately, again and again, over and over, on the Senate floor for actions and issues related directly to the lives of those with little or no voice in this democracy and who are often left out of our society time and time again; and

WHEREAS, Senator Wellstone was a role model for the United Church of Christ's vision that the basis of true democracy is grassroots participation of citizens from the local level working to impact national issues of peace and justice; and

WHEREAS, Senator Wellstone and the United Church of Christ share the belief that grassroots democracy is the best policy for this country; and

WHEREAS, Senator Wellstone was continually accessible for gatherings with the United Church of Christ on peace and justice concerns. Wellstone was a key participant in the debate as to where politics should be going, forever upholding high standards for the moral obligations of politicians as public servants; and

WHEREAS, Senator Wellstone pressed for campaign finances reform so that our country would become a true democracy; and

WHEREAS, Senator Wellstone and his wife Sheila, were recognized as national leaders on domestic violence and fought fervently to educate the populace and diminish the occurrence of domestic violence in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in fall 2002 Senator Wellstone voted against giving the President of the United States authorization to declare war on the country of Iraq; and

WHEREAS, Senator Wellstone fought to enact into law measures to improve the living conditions of hundreds of thousands of