

2. Britt Mitchell (CAC) invited delegates to sign a petition promoting clean water for children to drink.
3. Dosia Carlson (SW) initiated a program for older members of her congregation which developed a network for sharing of resources for older adult ministries.
4. Mark Bigelow (NY) invited those affected by September 11<sup>th</sup> to participate in the "International Day of Peace," September 21<sup>st</sup> of each year.
5. Mark Seifried (MASS) asked for a moment of silence in recognition of the struggling wider church.
6. Jan Barnes (MOMS) recognized the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Coalition for Reproductive Choice. She invited clergy and lay persons to participate in the April 25, 2004 rally for reproductive choice.
7. Lynn Hanson (Financial Development Ministry Team) announced the drawing for the \$1,000 gift annuity. Instructions were given on how to enter the drawing.
8. Art Cribbs (CA NV S) noted the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the farm workers movement. He invited all to participate in the border demonstration on Oct. 27 in Texas.
9. J. David Menchhofer (SE) encouraged everyone to use the rail system to promote the ecology.
10. Elma Coleman (HI) reminded attendees of the effects of missile testing on Marshall Island residents, and the lack of adequate health care to accommodate the effects.
11. Rebecca Johnston (WIS) recognized Jared Stodmocker the organist.

Ms. Wassmuth thanked the participants of the Speak Out!

Moderator Wassmuth reported that one of the delegates had to leave General Synod due to the death of her husband. Ms. Wassmuth granted a moment of personal privilege to Bob Sandman (OH). He gave an update on the condition which led to his hospitalization, and thanked all for their prayers of support and encouragement.

### **3. ADDRESS BY EDITH GUFFEY**

At the conclusion of the Speak Out!, Ms. Wassmuth invited Ms. Edith Guffey, Associate General Minister, for her report.

Ms. Guffey spoke about the importance of relationships, and how to create relationships through covenantal promises to one another. These relationships are what hold this body together in various expressions of the Church.

### **4. RESOLUTION: "ORGAN, TISSUE AND BLOOD DONATION"**

Moderator Wassmuth called upon Dale Schmidt, (OHIO) the Chair of Committee Ten, to present the resolution, "Organ, Tissue, and Blood Donation." The committee consolidated two of the original resolutions. Mr. Schmidt moved that the new consolidated resolution "Organ, Tissue, and Blood Donation," be adopted.

Extensive discussion was offered in support of this resolution.

Lauri Janke (SD) offered a friendly amendment to the first two paragraphs of THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Twenty-fourth General Synod of the United Church of Christ

- 1) encourages and supports members of the United Church of Christ to become organ, tissue, blood *and bone marrow* donors as an expression of Christian ministry, generosity, stewardship, and love;
- 2) calls upon those providing pastoral care to provide information to help individuals make informed decisions regarding organ, tissue, blood *and bone marrow* donation

Mr. Schmidt accepted the amendment as friendly.

03-GS-36 The Twenty-fourth General Synod adopts the amended resolution, "Organ, Tissue, and Blood Donation,"

**ORGAN, TISSUE AND BLOOD DONATION**

WHEREAS, God taught us to love one another through Jesus Christ, whose life was sacrificed that we might live abundantly; and

WHEREAS, much of the ministry of Jesus was a ministry of healing, restoring persons to wholeness in body and spirit and relationships; and

WHEREAS, the miracle of organ and tissue transplantation brings with it the opportunity for renewed health and well being and represents the highest form of compassion and love for others; and

WHEREAS, thousands of people suffer and die from an unnecessary shortage of organ and tissue donations; and

WHEREAS, resurrection and eternal life are not dependent on the condition of one's physical body at or after death, but upon the grace of God alone as promised in the gospel; and

WHEREAS, donors of organs, tissues may be living related donors (LRD), living unrelated donors (LURD), and donors upon death.

WHEREAS, some states maintain an organ and tissue donor registry approved by an Organ Procurement Organization (OPO), while other states do not; and

WHEREAS, in states which require consent of surviving family members for organ and tissue donation upon death, the family faces a time of tragic loss without an official statement from the United Church of Christ; and

WHEREAS, the recovery of organs and tissues, though subject to temptation and abuse, is normally carried out responsibly and caringly.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Twenty-fourth General Synod of the United Church of Christ

- 1) encourages and supports members of the United Church of Christ to become organ, tissue, blood and bone marrow donors as an expression of Christian ministry, generosity, stewardship and love;
- 2) calls upon those providing pastoral care to provide information to help individuals make informed decisions regarding organ, tissue, blood and bone marrow donation;
- 3) encourages and supports individuals to join Organ Procurement Organization-approved organ and tissue donor registries where applicable, to sign organ and tissue donor cards, and to include within their advanced medical directives instructions for organ and tissue donation;
- 4) encourage and support those individuals who decide to become organ and tissue donors to discuss and share their life-giving decision with their clergy and their families.
- 5) encourages members and ministries of the United Church of Christ to investigate realities of organ and tissue donation and access to organ and tissue donation and share that information with all the settings of the church.
- 6) calls on all settings of the church to engage the American Red Cross, the United States Food and Drug Administration, and other regulatory agencies to change blood donation policies so that gay and bisexual men (who are, at present, prevented from donating blood because of sexual

histories) may be included in the pool of potential donors as well as increase the opportunities and gifts of blood donation.

Funding for this action will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available. These same agencies would be the ones responsible for developing the strategy and program to implement this resolution.

**5. RESOLUTION: "PROTECTING THE VULNERABLE, THE UNBORN, THE SUBJECTS OF MEDICAL RESEARCH, THE DISABLED, THOSE CHRONICALLY AND TERMINALLY ILL**

Mr. Schmidt, on behalf of the committee, recommended no action on the resolution.

Mr. Schmidt spoke to the issue, reporting that the committee unanimously felt there were too many issues to be dealt with with integrity.

03-GS-37 VOTED: The Twenty-fourth General Synod votes to take no action on the resolution: Protecting the Vulnerable, the Unborn, the subjects of Medical Research, the Disabled, those Chronically and Terminally Ill.

Ms. Wassmuth called the order of the day and concluded the business for the evening.

**6. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Assistant Moderator Wassmuth called for announcements. Dale Bishop made the announcements.

**7. RECESS**

The sixth plenary was recessed with the beginning of worship at 8:35 p.m.

The theme for Monday evening's worship was "Live Joy." The sermon was delivered by Rev. Lillian Daniel (CONN), pastor of the Church of the Redeemer, New Haven.

**TUESDAY MORNING, JULY 15, 2003  
Seventh Plenary Session**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Moderator Nate Lewis called the seventh plenary session to order at 8:30 a.m.

**2. BIBLE STUDY**

Dr. Ephraim Agosto, New Testament Professor and Director, Programa de Ministerios Hispanos at Hartford Seminary was Bible Study Leader Tuesday morning. The theme for the day was "Act the Word."

**3. SPEAK OUT!**

Assistant Moderator Chris Smith called upon the participants for the Speak Out!

1. Steve Voelko (PW) voiced his feeling that if the United Church of Christ claims to be a faithful people, then another Faith Works! is needed. He suggested that the church not "hide behind financing, but step out in faith to sponsor an event."
2. Charlotte Phillips (VT) announced that the First United Church of Christ in Cornwall, VT is approaching the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its church building. She suggested the General Synod honor its older churches in 2005.
3. Hilary Dahlberg (MINN) noted that sexuality is a gift from God and asked why the Pension Boards' Health Insurance Plan does not pay for oral contraceptives which sends the message that sexual expression is only appropriate for purposes of procreation.
4. Cathy Sherry (PC) expressed concern that the United Church of Christ "identity shirts" were not made in Fair Trade shops and asked that identity products not be made at the expense of others.
5. Lloyd Steffen (PNE) spoke in opposition to the death penalty. He asked that future General Synods be held only in states that do not execute their citizens and he asked for a commitment to make the death penalty an issue of focus in 2005.