

## **8. OUR CHURCH'S WIDER MISSION CHANGING LIVES PRESENTATION**

Moderator Marvin Morgan called upon Ms. Jane Heckles and Mr. Bentley deBardelaben to share another "Changing Lives" presentation.

## **9. RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL STAFF**

Moderator Morgan called all national staff members to the stage so they could be thanked for the work they do for our local churches, conferences, and all of us. The delegates responded with a standing ovation of appreciation.

## **10. SONG BREAK**

Mr. Ken Medema provided an inspiring musical presentation.

## **11. COLLEGIUM REPORT**

Assistant Moderator John Humphrey invited Mr. Steve Sterner, Executive Minister for Local Church Ministries, and Ms. Edith Guffey, Associate General Minister, to present the second Collegium report.

Mr. Sterner and Ms. Guffey stated it is the role of the national church to build bridges to those effective places where our leaders' abilities can be strengthened, our strategies can be honed, and our congregational vitality can be energized.

## **12. RESOLUTION: CALLING FOR COMPREHENSIVE HIV PREVENTION IN CHURCH AND COMMUNITY**

Mr. Humphrey called upon Ms. Pamela Cook, Chair of Committee Five to present action from that committee.

Ms. Cook moved the adoption of the resolution "Calling for Comprehensive HIV Prevention in Church and Community." She then spoke to the resolution.

09-GS-42 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod adopts the resolution "Calling for Comprehensive HIV Prevention in Church and Community".

## **CALLING FOR COMPREHENSIVE HIV PREVENTION IN CHURCH AND COMMUNITY**

WHEREAS, our Christian faith calls upon the disciples of Jesus Christ to follow Jesus' teachings and the examples of Jesus' ministry; and,

Jesus reached out with compassion and healing to those who were sick and marginalized, and called people of faith to be ready and alert, for example:

- Matthew 14:14. *When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick.*
  - Mark 1:40-42. *A leper came to him begging him, and kneeling he said to him, "If you choose, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, "I do choose. Be made clean!" Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean.*
  - Luke 12:39. *But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into.*
  - Matthew 25:1-13. *Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.*
- and,

There are an estimated 33 million people living with HIV worldwide and that for every 5 new HIV infections there are only 2 people who receive medical treatment (UNAIDS, June 2008), demonstrating that the world is losing the fight against HIV and AIDS. Treatment alone cannot stop the HIV and AIDS pandemic; and,

The United States Center for Disease Control (CDC) released new data revealing that HIV infections in the US are 40% higher than previously thought and reporting estimates that there are more than 1 million persons living with HIV in the U.S. and 20% of them do not know they are HIV positive (August 3, 2008); and,

The global health community, including UNAIDS, the World Health Organization, the U.S. CDC, and the U.S. National Institute for Health, has called for increased best practice, comprehensive HIV prevention efforts, especially with vulnerable groups and high risk populations; and,

The CDC has encouraged everyone to know their HIV status; and,

The international HIV and AIDS community has recognized the important role of faith communities like the United Church of Christ in HIV prevention and care, and the untapped capacity that exists in such communities for effective response; and,

The Fourteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopted the Resolution on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and declared its “compassionate concern and support for all persons with AIDS, their lovers, spouses, families and friends” and the Sixteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopted the pronouncement “Health and Wholeness in the Midst of a Pandemic” and called the United Church of Christ to leadership in response to AIDS.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Twenty-Seventh General Synod of the United Church of Christ:

Declares its compassionate concern about the growing human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) epidemic in the United States and throughout the world, and its support for all those living with and affected by HIV; and,

Reaffirms the Pronouncement on Health and Wholeness in the Midst of a Pandemic adopted by the Sixteenth General Synod, the Resolution on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) adopted by the Fourteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ and the Resolution, “Responding to AIDS: Endorsement and Enactment of the “Ten Principles for the Workplace” adopted by the Seventeenth General Synod; and,

Affirms current efforts to, and calls on all clergy and lay persons in all settings of the United Church of Christ to:

- become knowledgeable about HIV and AIDS,
- understand how HIV is transmitted and how it is prevented,
- work to prevent its transmission,
- reduce stigma and discrimination, and
- help the whole church to increase its HIV competency; and,

Strongly urges all clergy and lay persons in the United Church of Christ to know their HIV status; and,

Calls on local churches and other settings of the church to develop and implement best practice comprehensive HIV prevention education, programs and strategies for church and community, with particular attention to vulnerable groups and at risk populations; and,

Calls on the United Church of Christ HIV and AIDS Network (UCAN, Inc.) to work collaboratively within and beyond the United Church of Christ to provide technical assistance, training, education, and resources to help all settings of the church develop and implement comprehensive HIV prevention strategies and programs for church and community, and encourage the use of existing resources such as *Affirming Persons*, *Saving Lives* and the comprehensive sexuality education curriculum, *Our Whole Lives*; and,

Calls on local, state and federal governments to work together to develop and implement a national HIV and AIDS strategy that includes increased funding for best practice comprehensive HIV prevention programs; and,

Calls on Wider Church Ministries to report on the progress of the implementation of this resolution to the next three General Synods.

#### FUNDING

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

#### IMPLEMENTATION

In collaboration with Wider Church Ministries, UCAN, Inc. is responsible for developing the strategy and program designed to implement this resolution.

### **13. RESOLUTION: AN URGENT CALL FOR ADVOCACY IN SUPPORT OF HEALTH CARE FOR ALL, AS IN H.R. 676**

Mr. Humphrey called upon Mr. Michael Castle, Chair of Committee Twelve, to present action from that committee.

Mr. Castle moved the adoption of the resolution "An Urgent Call for Advocacy in Support of Health Care for All, as in H.R. 676.

Ms. Marti Baumer (ILL) rose to a Point of Order questioning whether it was the intention of the presenters that we not support the legislation if it does not meet all the criteria in H.R. 676. Mr. Castle responded that the committee would not support legislation that does not meet all requirements.

Mr. Andrew Smith (WISC) moved to end debate.

09-GS-43 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod votes to end debate.

09-GS-44 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod adopts the resolution "An Urgent Call for Advocacy in Support of Health Care for All, as in H.R. 676.

### **AN URGENT CALL FOR ADVOCACY IN SUPPORT OF HEALTH CARE FOR ALL, AS IN H.R. 676**

BE IT RESOLVED that: Based on our belief that health care is not only a basic human NEED but also a basic human RIGHT and our belief that it is a moral imperative to transform health care so that it is: