

14. Bob Atkinson (MOMS) requested everyone write letters to help Bradley Manning, a patriot who is incarcerated.

Assistant Moderator Aurand thanked everyone for their Speakout! participation. She also thanked Mr. Dick Sparrow for his work as the Speakout! coordinator.

3. RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL STAFF

Ms. Aurand invited all national staff members to the stage so delegates could express their appreciation for the work they do that helps support the work of our local churches, associations, conferences and all of us in so many ways. Delegates responded with a standing ovation of appreciation.

4. RECOGNITION OF LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE AND VOLUNTEERS

Ms. Aurand called upon Ms. Edith Guffey to help everyone thank the Local Arrangements Committee and volunteers.

Ms. Guffey reported that over 300 volunteers have been working for several months to prepare for our time together. There were three wonderful co-chairs of this committee, Ms. Mary Nutter, Mr. Rick Carson and Mr. John Syster and Conference Minister Kent Saladi who have been absolutely fabulous. Each person was given a gift of appreciation, along with applause from the delegates.

5. U. S. RATIFICATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY

Ms. Aurand called upon Douglas Wooten, Vice Chair of the Committee of Reference of the Executive Council on behalf of the Business Committee, who moved adoption of the resolution entitled "U. S. Ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty." Mr. Wooten then yielded his time to Mr. Gordon Crouch (NH) who spoke to the resolution. Discussion followed.

11-GS-45 VOTED: The Twenty-eighth General Synod adopts the resolution "U. S. Ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty."

U. S. RATIFICATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY

WHEREAS, the United States holds the largest arsenal of weapons of mass destruction and is, in fact, the only country to have used them against another; and

WHEREAS, the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty by the United States Senate would be a major step forward in global efforts to curtail nuclear proliferation and pursue nuclear disarmament; and

WHEREAS, at the 2000 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, the United States made the commitment to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty as one of the thirteen steps towards nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament; and

WHEREAS, at the heart of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty is the obligation “not to carry out any nuclear weapon test explosion of any other nuclear explosion” as well as a rigorous verification regime; and

WHEREAS, the time is long past for the United States to take leadership in calling for the comprehensive, unequivocal, and verifiable ban on all nuclear weapons testing;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-eighth General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages its members, congregations, and various settings to call on the United States Senate to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty as one of its most important foreign policy priorities in Congress.

FUNDING

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

Justice and Witness Ministries is requested to implement this resolution.

6. SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS RELATED TO SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY

Assistant Moderator Aurand called upon Adam Tietje, Chairperson of Committee Seven for the presentation of the Committee.

Mr. Tietje moved adoption of the resolution “Supporting International Human Rights Related to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity,” as presented with amendments. Mr. Tietje yielded his time to Ms. Emily Heath (MASS), a member of Committee Seven, who spoke to the resolution.

Ms. Twila Rhodes (FL) moved to amend the resolution to add “gender expression” on line 99 to make the resolution consistent. Ms. Cally Rogers-Witte advised that the language is the United Nations language, not ours. The motion was withdrawn.

11-GS-46 VOTED: The Twenty-eighth General Synod adopts the resolution “Supporting International Human Rights Related to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity,” as presented with amendments.

SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS RELATED TO SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY

WHEREAS, the Tenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ (1975) declared, “In faithfulness to the biblical and historic mandate, we hold that, as a child of God, every person is endowed with worth and dignity that human judgment cannot set aside.” (A Pronouncement: Civil Liberties without Discrimination Related to Affectional or Sexual Preference), and previous General Synod and Executive Council actions have declared faithful support for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (GS2, 1959) and committed to church to seek the full application of international human rights (GS12, 1979);