

substitute offered by Mr. Bladen were before the house; the adoption of the substitute would rescind Vote 37.

57 GS 45. VOTED: that the General Synod request the Executive Council to implement Article X, E, of the Basis of Union by using as the basis of determining the number of delegates to be elected the last published figures for each denomination available six months before the next General Synod is to be convened, with the clear understanding that this action has no bearing on the question of the adherence of particular churches to the United Church of Christ.

Through this action, as previously explained by the Co-Moderator, Vote 37 was rescinded.

Mr. Bladen reported that the Business Committee, after giving careful consideration to the necessity for adjustments in paragraphs 4, 7, and 12 of Section G of Article VIII on the Basis of Union, had agreed to recommend to the General Synod the adoption of the following resolution:

Since no Merged Fund has been established, and considerable time will be required for the planning and organization of such a Fund, the General Synod directs its Executive Council to encourage the Pension Fund Boards to formulate plans for the Merged Fund, taking into account changed conditions since the Basis of Union was written, and report to the next General Synod. Particular attention is called to the provision embodied in Article IX, Section C, of the Basis of Union.

57 GS 46. VOTED: to adopt the recommendation of the Business Committee.

Returning to the report of the Business Committee as printed in the White Book, Mr. Bladen read the concluding item:

Resolution 2

It is recommended that the Uniting General Synod express its appreciation to all those whose labors have brought us to this day and its continuing affection and respect for all those who at any time through the years since negotiations began have entertained questions or uncertainties as to the union or the processes through which its achievement was sought. Such reactions are inevitable when ventures are made through new and uncharted areas. When questions have been raised or anxieties and uncertainties have been voiced, responsible leaders and devout and thoughtful members of both fellowships have been impelled to even more clear and careful thinking. When opposition has risen, they have

been moved to further scrutiny of their work and a further quest for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Now, when the Uniting General Synod adjourns and the processes of union continue, it is hoped that all that we do here and all that is done from now on will combine to enlist the fullest response of all of our people as they take increasing assurance that this union is of God's making.

57 GS 47. VOTED (unanimously): to adopt the recommendation of the Business Committee.

Co-Moderator Goebel expressed appreciation and admiration of Mr. Bladen's expert knowledge, graciousness of manner and wisdom of counsel in presenting the report of the Business Committee. The General Synod concurred in this tribute by rising and applauding.

Copies of the Message to the Churches from the Uniting General Synod were distributed. Rev. Paul C. Shumaker drew attention to minor corrections which should be made in the text. It was then

57 GS 48. VOTED: to adopt the corrected Message to the Churches from the Uniting General Synod. (See Appendix 22, page 129.)

Rev. Raymond F. Frankenfeld presented the report of the Committee on Amenities. After reading the first paragraph he moved that it be adopted by a rising vote. The General Synod by common consent rose for a moment of silent prayer. Mr. Frankenfeld then read the remainder of the report. Before it was acted upon by the General Synod, Co-Secretary Mackey requested the members of the local Committee on Arrangements to rise for official recognition of their well-organized and efficient work. As they did so the General Synod expressed its thanks to them through applause.

57 GS 49. VOTED: to adopt the remaining items of the report of the Committee on Amenities.

As adopted the report is as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Uniting General Synod of the United Church of Christ receives with deepest regret the notice of the death of one of its official delegates, Mr. Theodore S. Kniker of Seguin, Texas. Mr. Kniker was en route to Cleveland when he was stricken, and passed away at Chicago, Illinois. He had served as a consecrated layman and as an officer of Texas Synod, and had represented his Synod at numerous meetings and conferences. To his bereaved family the members of this Uniting