

of dealing with such concerns indicated in its original assignment or as may be referred to it by the General Synod or the Executive Council and requests that it consult with the instrumentalities of the uniting fellowships which are engaged in missionary, education, stewardship and promotional activities.

### WEDNESDAY EVENING

The General Synod convened in Finney Chapel at 7:30 p.m., Co-Moderator Phillips called upon the assembly to bow in silent prayer in preparation for the meeting and requested the Rev. Elam G. Wiest to lead in prayer.

The Co-Moderator presented Mr. Herbster who in turn called on the Rev. Liston Pope to present a resolution concerning the time schedule for the adoption of the Constitution. Mr. Pope read the resolution, and it was

59-GS-45 VOTED: To adopt the proposed time schedule for dealing with the Constitution as follows:

#### Resolution Concerning the Constitution

WHEREAS, the General Synod has received in its meeting at Oberlin a document admirably conceived and drafted by its Commission to Prepare a Constitution for the United Church of Christ, and

WHEREAS, the discussion in the sessions of the General Synod has contributed to our understanding of the document and has produced many suggestions for consideration by the Commission in its future deliberations, and

WHEREAS, it is of the greatest importance that churches, associations, conferences, synods and instrumentalities be given the opportunity of participating in the Constitution-making process for the United Church, before the synods and churches are asked for a vote on its ratification, and

WHEREAS, the earliest date at which the Constitution could be declared in force by the General Synod would be 1961, since it must be ratified by two-thirds of the Congregational Christian Churches voting and two-thirds of the Evangelical and Reformed Synods,

Now, therefore, be it resolved:

1. That the General Synod approves as an excellent working document the draft submitted by the Commission to Prepare a Constitution, and
2. That the General Synod commends the document to the churches, associations, conferences, synods, and instrumentalities of its constituent communions for careful study during the forthcoming year, and
3. That the General Synod requests that the comments from churches and associations be reported to their synods or conferences, and comments from them and these bodies themselves, as well as comments from instrumentalities, be returned to the Commission to Prepare a Constitu-

tion not later than December 1, 1959, recognizing that this procedure does not preclude direct address to the Commission itself at the United Church of Christ at 257 Park Avenue, South, New York 10, New York.

4. That the General Synod expresses its genuine appreciation to the Commission to Prepare a Constitution, and continues its existence until the end of the regular meeting of the General Synod in 1961, for the revision of the existing draft in the light of the discussion emerging from the present meeting of the General Synod, the views of the instrumentalities, and the suggestions from the churches and the other bodies named above.

5. (a) That the present document and a covering letter be sent by the Executive Council to each congregation, association, synod, and conference as soon as possible after the close of this meeting of the General Synod.

(b) That the General Synod set December 1, 1959, as the deadline for receiving these suggestions from the churches and other bodies, and instructs the Commission to Prepare a Constitution to send its revised draft to the Executive Council by about February 20, 1960, for transmission to the synods, associations, conferences, churches, delegates, and associate members by about March 20, 1960, and for submission to a proposed adjourned session of the General Synod in 1960.

(c) That when this General Synod adjourns it adjourn to be reconvened at a place to be arranged by the Executive Council and at a time also to be arranged by the Executive Council, the date, if possible, to be sometime between June 15, 1960, and July 15, 1960.

(d) That if the adjourned meeting of the General Synod in 1960 approves a proposed Constitution, the document shall be submitted for ratification to the Congregational Christian Churches and to the Evangelical and Reformed Synods.

6. That the General Synod looks forward to the declaration, according to the Basis of Union with Interpretations, that a Constitution is in force in 1961, after ratification by two-thirds of the Congregational Christian Churches voting and two-thirds of the Evangelical and Reformed Synods, marking another forward step in the determined march of our constituent communions toward true unity in the Church of Christ.

59-GS-46 VOTED: That the General Synod go into the Committee of the Whole in order to continue discussion of the report of the Commission to Prepare a Constitution.

At 9:28, the Committee of the Whole being adjourned, the General Synod reconvened to receive the report of the Committee of the Whole. The Parliamentarian reported that the Committee of the Whole met at 8:15 and considered various items of the Constitution. It made suggestions to the Commission to Prepare a Constitution, and voted to report at 9:28 to the General Synod.

59-GS-47 VOTED: To adopt the report of the Committee of the Whole.