

Co-Moderator Press called on the Rev. Ben M. Herbster, Co-Chairman of the Executive Council, who moved the Resolution to "Declare the Constitution in Force," as follows:

WHEREAS, the Basis of Union with Interpretations provides:

"The General Synod shall initiate action for the preparation of a constitution of the United Church. This constitution shall be based upon the principles set forth in this Basis of Union. When prepared, it shall be submitted to the General Synod; and the General Synod shall declare it in force when it shall have been ratified by not less than two-thirds of the former Congregational Christian churches voting, and by not less than two-thirds of the former Evangelical and Reformed Synods." (IV. A. The Basis of Union and Interpretations)

and

WHEREAS, the General Synod of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the General Council of the Congregational Christian Churches by officially elected delegates to the Uniting General Synod voted (57 GS 5) to adopt the following resolution:

"WHEREAS, the Evangelical and Reformed Church by procedures regularly prescribed in its Constitution and By-Laws has approved the Basis of Union and Interpretations and authorized its duly elected delegates to join in the call and holding of the Uniting General Synod of the United Church of Christ;

"AND WHEREAS, the General Council of the Congregational Christian Churches, adjudging the affirmative vote of the churches voting as constituting sufficient support to warrant it in proceeding to consummate the union, has likewise authorized its duly elected delegates to join in the call and holding of the Uniting General Synod of the United Church of Christ;

"BE IT RESOLVED, FIRST, that the delegates of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and of the General Council of the Congregational Christian Churches in joint session assembled this day, June 25, 1957, in the city of Cleveland, Ohio, do hereby declare that the Basis of Union and Interpretations have been legally adopted;

"SECOND, that the union of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the General Council of the Congregational Christian Churches is now effected under the name of the "United Church of Christ";

"THIRD, that the consummation of the union be formally pronounced by the President of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Secretary and Minister of the General Council of the Congregational Christian Churches, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, the delegates concurring;

FOURTH, that until the adoption of a constitution for the United Church of Christ the Basis of Union shall regulate the business and affairs of the United Church;

"AND FIFTH, that following the service of worship of this Uniting General Synod, the session be recessed and reconvened on the morrow."

And

WHEREAS, the Second General Synod in Adjourned Session in Cleveland, 1960, voted:

“BE IT RESOLVED, that the General Synod hereby accepts the revised draft transmitted by the Commission to Prepare a Constitution and as amended by the General Synod as the proposed Constitution of the United Church of Christ and approves the same, subject to literary editing, for submission to the Evangelical and Reformed Synods and the Congregational Christian churches for ratification or approval, hereby requesting that such action be taken by midnight, June 1, 1961, and transmitted to the Co-Secretaries of the General Synod not later than midnight, June 5, 1961”; and WHEREAS, the Second General Synod in Adjourned Session also adopted the following resolution:

“BE IT RESOLVED, that the General Synod submits the Constitution to the Synods of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and to the Churches of the Congregational Christian fellowship for vote according to the procedures under which they respectively operate;

“AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Synod urges the Synods and Churches respectively to vote their approval of this Constitution and thus reflect their will to ‘express more fully the oneness in Christ of the churches composing the United Church of Christ, to make more effective their common witness to Him, and to serve His kingdom in the world’;

“AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, pursuant to paragraph 13 of the Constitution, the vote of a Congregational Christian Church to approve the Constitution is also a vote of the church to become a part of the United Church of Christ;

“AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a Congregational Christian Church which for any reason is unable to vote approval of the Constitution be urged, again pursuant to paragraph 13 of the Constitution, to vote to become a part of the United Church of Christ;

“AND BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER, that the General Synod, in accordance with the Basis of Union, advises that upon approval of the Constitution by two-thirds of the Synods of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, the Evangelical and Reformed Church will have approved the Constitution.”

and

WHEREAS, the Co-Secretaries of the United Church have reported to the General Synod that 32 of the Synods of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, which is more than two-thirds of all the Synods of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, have certified to having ratified or approved the proposed Constitution of the United Church of Christ; and that 3,547 local Congregational Christian churches, which is more than two-thirds of the 3,889 Congregational Christian churches which voted, have certified to having ratified or approved the proposed Constitution of the United Church of Christ, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Constitution of the United Church of Christ as approved by the General Synod in Adjourned Session at Cleveland, July 8, 1960, for submission to the Synods of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational Christian Churches for their ratification or approval be declared to be and is in force.

61-GS-8 VOTED: To adopt the Resolution to Declare the Constitution in Force. (See Appendix 31)