

MONDAY AFTERNOON

F. That beginning in 1972 and subject to conditions as stated in Recommendation B available funds (i.e., receipts from churches) shall be distributed as follows: one-half in direct grants of equal amounts to related colleges and academies, and one-half in discretionary appropriations.

G. That contributions received by individual colleges from Conferences, Associations, and churches shall be taken into consideration in determining the discretionary appropriations to the colleges and academies.

It was moved, seconded, and

69-GS-72 VOTED: The General Synod adopts the seven recommendations of the Joint Committee on Church-College Relations.

6. Report of the Commission on Christian Unity and Ecumenical Study and Service

Assistant Moderator Horace G. Ports introduced the Rev. David G. Colwell of the United Church delegation to the Consultation on Church Union and formerly its chairman. Mr. Colwell addressed the General Synod, summarizing the report of the Consultation on Church Union as printed in *Advance Reports* and emphasizing the tentative suggestions for local church structure and the timetable for publishing and studying a plan of union.

7. Action on the Report on the Commission on Christian Unity

The Rev. Lorenz L. Eichenlaub, Chairman of the Report Committee on the General Synod, introduced the Rev. Keith M. Jones, Chairman of the subcommittee on the Commission on Christian Unity and Ecumenical Study and Service who presented that committee's report, as follows:

1. The General Synod recognizes that the Consultation on Church Union (COCU) will submit in the early 1970's a plan of union to the United Church of Christ and to eight other constituent denominations, and that the United Church of Christ will have to make some decision on that plan on the basis of its on-going commitment to church union and ecumenism. The General Synod urges all levels of the United Church of Christ to prepare for this decision in such ways as to enable timely, open, honest, and creative confrontation of the issues involved.

Specifically, the General Synod looks for a plan of church union which holds before us such hope of renewal and reform as will encourage us to live through adjustment and change. The General Synod looks equally for a plan of church union embodying such continuity with our denominational traditions that we may see our identity in Christ enriched and strengthened.

The General Synod looks for a plan with structural freedom for the Holy Spirit to speak with power through the church locally to the world and to the whole church. The General Synod looks equally for structural freedom for the Holy Spirit to speak with power through the whole church to the world and to the church locally.

2. To the end that there be responsible preparation for the imminent decision in relation to a plan of union to be submitted by the Consultation on Church Union, and in the interests of getting on with the work of the church, the General Synod:

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a. Urges local church initiatives in functional and structural ecumenism at the local level. The General Synod hereby approves the "Guidelines for Local Interchurch Action" as adopted by the Eighth Meeting of the Consultation on Church Union in March of 1969, and commends these guidelines to Conferences, Associations and local churches as one effort to bring responsible order to local ecumenical efforts already in progress, and to stimulate new local ecumenical ventures.

b. Urges local church interaction where possible with congregations of the predominantly black denominations, particularly those represented in the Consultation on Church Union.

c. Commends plans for joint ecumenical programming and planning involving instrumentality executives of denominations in the Consultation on Church Union, and urges United Church of Christ instrumentality executives so involved to carry with them the sense of urgency which this Synod attaches to this work.

d. Commends the recently published Consultation on Church Union booklet, "An Order of Worship," for use in ecumenical and denominational services of worship at the local, Association and Conference level, including use on the Consultation on Church Union Sunday in the spring of 1970 and years following.

3. Commends the present efforts involving our denomination in the creation of an ecumenical hymnal, ecumenical church school materials and ecumenical education at theological institutions and urges further expansion of these and similar efforts.

4. Urges Conferences and Associations to give fuller expression to the mission and shape of the church through imaginative ecumenical endeavors in traditional and new forms of ministry.

5. Urges local churches, while not reducing Basic Support giving, to give expression to our long-standing involvement in the National and World Councils of Churches by making direct contributions to these organizations.

A substitute wording of item 5 was proposed, seconded, and it was

69-GS-73 VOTED: to amend item 5 to read: (The General Synod) urges local churches to be reminded that the support of the work of the National and World Councils of Churches is included in the national Basic Support budget for OCWM and that adequate support by the United Church of Christ can be made possible only as local churches continue and enlarge their Basic Support giving.

It was then moved, seconded, and

69-GS-74 VOTED: The General Synod adopts the report on the Commission on Christian Unity as amended.

8. Biographical Sketches for Nominees

A motion was presented that "this Seventh General Synod instruct the Nominating Committee for the Eighth General Synod to prepare a minimum of a two line biographical sketch on all nominations that they make and submit it to all delegates at least one business session before nominations from the