

## FRIDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 25

tion on "The Faith Crisis." The presentation consisted of brief statements about how the faith crisis affects their lives by Mr. Kenneth Parker and the Rev. Oliver G. Powell, both of Washington, D.C., and by Miss Kay White, Indiana-Kentucky Conference delegate; an address by the Rev. Joseph D. Duffey, Hartford, Conn., candidate for the U.S. Senate in 1970; and a segment of "Road Signs on a Merry-go-round," a film presenting thoughts on the crisis of faith by three theologians: Teilhard de Chardin, Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Martin Buber. The statements and the address are included in the Appendix.

After the presentation was concluded, Mr. Yates reminded the delegates of the importance of the Issue Exploration Groups to which they would now proceed.

The Moderator declared the General Synod to be in recess until 8:00 P.M.

## FRIDAY EVENING, JUNE 25

Moderator Pfeiffer called the third session of the Eighth General Synod to order at 8:10 P.M., Friday, June 25.

The responses developed by the Exploration Groups to the Goals and Objectives under the Faith Crisis were not available to the delegates in printed form, due in part to the fact that only two hours had elapsed since the Exploration Groups had recessed and in part to the untried nature of the design of this General Synod.

An attempt to introduce orally some of the proposals of the Youth Caucus concerning Goals and Objectives proved unsatisfactory. There was confusion and there were a number of questions from the floor about procedure. The delegates voted to defer action on Goals and Objectives until the printed documents were before them.

### *1. Voice granted to members of Council for American Indian Ministry*

The Rev. Jacob B. Wagner, chairman of the Executive Council, moved on its behalf and, after a second, it was

71-GS-16 VOTED: The Eighth General Synod grants voice without vote to Mrs. Adele Little Dog and Miss Reba Walker of the Council for American Indian Ministry of the United Church of Christ.

The session was then recessed by vote of the delegates until 9:00 P.M., when it was expected that the responses of the Exploration Groups to the proposed Goals and Objectives under the priority, "The Faith Crisis," would be available.

### *2. "The Faith Crisis": Goals and Objectives adopted*

Reconvening at 9:00 P.M., the General Synod adopted the Goals and Objectives printed below for the priority, "The Faith Crisis."

71-GS-17 VOTED: The Eighth General Synod adopts the following Goal for the priority, "The Faith Crisis: Recovering and renewing a living experience of God's promise for humankind."

**Goal 1.** To have the United Church of Christ recognize that our response to the issue of universal human liberation is founded in the prophetic traditions of the Old Testament and the life and mission of Jesus Christ in the New Testament. This response is embodied in our actions as members of the community of faith in working toward "Whole Earth—Whole People."

71-GS-18 VOTED: The Eighth General Synod adopts the following Goal and Objectives for the priority, "The Faith Crisis."

**Goal 2.** To have the United Church of Christ celebrate the Statement of Faith adopted by the Second General Synod, and encourage its use in congregational worship, in private devotions, and study. Recognizing divergent interpretations of the Statement of Faith, the Synod urges Instrumentalities, Conferences, seminaries and congregations to engage in sustained examination of faith declarations and their underlying meanings in both substance and expression. Such examination should be conducted by persons of varying faith opinions, and should be directed toward clear understanding, adequate interpretation, whole response and productive encounter with other faiths.

*Objective 1.* To be sustained and inspired through the celebration of our faith.

*Objective 2.* To wrestle with the Biblical affirmation about the meaning of life.

*Objective 3.* To become committed to behavior consistent with our beliefs.

*Objective 4.* To be engaged in serving God in our public and private endeavors.

*Objective 5.* To work toward these objectives by utilizing the best available resources and skills.

71-GS-19 VOTED: The Eighth General Synod adopts the following Goal and Objectives for the priority, "The Faith Crisis."

**Goal 3.** To have the Instrumentalities, Conferences, and churches relate issues of faith explicitly to issues of racial justice.

*Objective 1.* To reform attitudes and relationships between white and non-white persons, groups, and nations.

*Objective 2.* To develop communities of faith around questions of racial and cultural liberation.

*Objective 3.* To support and encourage structures which promote the development of full human potential, while working to create social, economic, and political systems in which all people have full participation.

71-GS-20 VOTED: The Eighth General Synod adopts the following Goal and Objectives for the priority, "The Faith Crisis."

**Goal 4.** To have the Instrumentalities, Conferences, and churches apply faith explicitly to issues of United States power.

*Objective 1.* To have corporate power used for ends which are compatible with the development of a whole people.

*Objective 2.* To distribute the means for economic power to people who are now denied access to those means by reason of race or color.

*Objective 3.* To establish a concept of peace which transcends the absence of war and includes the free development of all nations and peoples.

*Objective 4.* To define and apply United States power in ways that are appropriate to the development of an international community which is grounded in the concept "Whole Earth—Whole People."

71-GS-21 VOTED: The Eighth General Synod adopts the following Goal and Objectives for the priority, "The Faith Crisis."

**Goal 5. To have the Instrumentalities and Conferences relate issues of faith explicitly to issues of local church development.**

*Objective 1.* To enable local churches to find new and imaginative ways to proclaim the love and Lorship of Jesus Christ to all persons who experience the crisis of faith.

*Objective 2.* To confront the false consciousness which does not recognize the depths of the faith crisis.

*Objective 3.* To develop, then keep under study, new communities of faith which are based upon common issues, life styles, vocations, institutions or meaning systems.

*Objective 4.* To develop relationships between traditional and new forms of witness, testing their mutual impact upon one another.

*Objective 5.* To initiate methods to train leaders in the faith (lay, ordained or pre-ordained) through which they may develop relevant talents and skills, increase their insight and judgment and establish means for greater co-operation and interdependence among UCC churches and members.

*Objective 6.* To create educational materials that are appropriate to specific communities and covenants, relating the foundations of faith to particular activities and goals.

*Objective 7.* In a spirit of understanding, fellowship and mutual concern, to seek dialogue with other Christians, people of different religious traditions and people who seek without specific religious commitment.

*Objective 8.* To develop ways to enable congregations to enliven their worship so that the church may be empowered by the Spirit to celebrate and live out the faith.

*Objective 9.* To emphasize that the Christian faith is not merely theological formulations and social action, but also a dynamic (i.e. power-filled), living relationship with God and persons within the context of the love of Christ, which is the springboard of our work in the world.

*\*Objective 10.* To set aside \$100,000 which will be used to pay all or part of the cost of United Church of Christ clergymen attending training centers which have developed self-conscious efforts to deal theologically with the crisis of faith and to teach a methodology which would enable these clergymen intentionally to minister to the faith crisis in the local congregation.

\*Since Objective 10 involved a budget consideration, in accordance with Standing Rule 12 it was referred without action to the Budget Committee.

At the stated time of recess, 10:00 P.M., the delegates voted to extend the session until 10:15 P.M.

At the conclusion of taking action on Goals and Objectives, there was an affirmative vote that the speech of the Rev. Joseph D. Duffey in the afternoon session be duplicated and distributed to the delegates. Secretary Evans responded that although to accomplish this would involve considerable difficulty, the staff would endeavor to make all the speeches in the Unitary Program Presentation on "The Faith Crisis" available to the delegates.

After announcements and a concluding prayer by Assistant Moderator Ledbetter, the General Synod was declared to be in recess at 10:40 P.M.