

## MONDAY EVENING, JUNE 28

Mr. Cesar G. Mendoza (SW)  
Mr. Royal E. Meyer (WIS)  
Mr. E. Chris Montano (SW)  
Dr. Donald W. Ogletree (OHIO)  
Dr. George A. Owens (SE)  
Mr. Samuel E. Polanco (PR)  
Mr. Calvin Rueter (SC)  
Dr. Ronald W. Roskens (OHIO)  
Mr. Frederick C. Rozelle, Jr. (MASS)  
Dr. Arthur D. Shores (SE)  
Mr. Harold Taylor (CONN)  
Mr. Kenneth E. Wacker (FLA)

### LAYWOMEN

Mrs. Stephen D. Babcock (MONT)  
Mrs. Tyree Barefield-Pendleton (SE)  
Mrs. Robert M. Bartlett (OHIO)  
Mrs. Ric Barton (MINN)  
Mrs. William H. Chaffee (MASS)

Mrs. Harry Hamilton (WIS)  
Mrs. Allen Happe (PSE)  
Miss Phyllis Hoyt (OHIO)  
Miss Hilda Jaime (PR)  
Mrs. Earl Johnson (CAC)  
Mrs. Diana Krushnic (MASS)  
Mrs. Annie L. Lawrence (ILL)  
Mrs. Edward L. Loonam (SC)  
Miss Pam Luecke (OHIO)  
Miss Virginia Martin (NY)  
Mrs. Kenneth L. Means (ILL)  
Mrs. Vilroy McVay (MASS)  
Mrs. Roscoe F. Metzger (CONN)  
Mrs. Stanley U. North, Jr. (NY)  
Mrs. Robert Rankin (MO)  
Mrs. Donald C. Runge (OHIO)  
Mrs. Donald Thymian (MINN)  
Mrs. Chester A. Weed (CONN)  
Mrs. Eugene S. Wehrli (MO)  
Mrs. Bernice Whitegull (WIS)

#### ***4. Response and Action: The Local Church***

Mrs. Wagner recognized Mrs. Alfred C. Bartholomew, Penn Central Conference, chairman of the Exploration Unit to which the priority (issue), "The Local Church," had been assigned, for the purpose of reporting the proposed Goals and Objectives being offered by that Unit.

Mrs. Bartholomew said that through the good use of the Explanation Groups and the Exploration Units the democratic process had been able to function in this General Synod. She commended the members of the Exploration Unit on The Local Church for their participation and hard work and for the quality of their findings, now to be presented.

The Eighth General Synod adopted the following Goals and Objectives for the priority, "The Local Church: Strengthening the local church in life and mission." Some of the items recorded here were acted upon in subsequent sessions.

71-GS-49 VOTED: The Eighth General Synod adopts the following Goal and Objectives for the priority, "The Local Church."

**Goal 1. To have the membership of the United Church of Christ seek to know and to do God's will and to understand what he calls congregations to be.**

*Objective 1.* To proclaim God's call of all people into his church.

*Objective 2.* To reaffirm that the Church of Jesus Christ, wherever its location, whether in Bombay or Boston, St. Louis or San Pedro Sula, finds selfhood and expresses faith in the presence of Christ through the gathered congregation.

*Objective 3.* To enable local churches to become more adequate, loving, caring communities, instruments of Christian nurture for all their members and witnesses to the gospel of Jesus Christ both in the lives of the members and in the life of the congregation.

Within such a community divergent views exist. The local church needs to be aware that conflict can be a creative and vital element in the survival and strengthening of the church. We call upon the Instrumentalities, Conferences, and congregations to research and recommend viable resources (e.g. conflict management labs, communication skills, etc.) for the creative use of conflict in the local church.

*Objective 4.* To affirm the pluralism of individual and congregational life styles in the United Church of Christ.

*Objective 5.* To have each local congregation of the United Church of Christ conduct its life in accordance with the gospel imperatives of love, justice and reconciliation.

*Objective 6.* To urge each local congregation to take publicly the name "United Church of Christ."

*Objective 7.* To explore existing as well as develop new contemporary worship resources for use with the new styles of life emerging in UCC churches.

*Objective 8.* To instruct the Executive Council and Instrumentalities to urge strongly the local churches to use the "Local Church in God's Mission" planning process to implement this goal.

71-GS-50 VOTED: The Eighth General Synod adopts the following Goal and Objectives for the priority, "The Local Church."

**Goal 2.** To have the Conferences and national agencies provide the means to meet the need for leadership (laity and clergy, especially women and youth) equipped with skills and resources appropriate for the mission.

*Objective 1.* To have the President of the United Church of Christ appoint a task force to inquire into ways by which the national arm of the United Church of Christ, in concert with the Conferences, can better assist the local churches in the development of local church leadership, both clergy and lay, and thus assist them to strengthen their life and mission, developed through the shared responsibility of the whole *laos*, laity and clergy, marked by

Laity empowered to initiate as well as to participate in the various forms of the church's mission, ministry, and governance.

Pastors equipped to enable the laity through mutual ministry in the life of the church "gathered" and the mission of the church "scattered."

Congregations renewed with a life-style which supports and equips their members.

a. That the task force be heavily weighted with local church leadership, both lay and clergy;

b. That the Planning and Correlation Committee (of the Executive Council) be represented on the task force;

c. That the report of the task force be returned to the Planning and Correlation Committee;

d. That a progress report be made by the task force to the Planning and Correlation Committee at the March, 1973, meeting of the Executive Council;

e. That the task force study and evaluate leadership development in the United Church of Christ as provided by the Council for Church and Ministry primarily concerned with clergy leadership development, the Council for Lay Life and Work primarily concerned with lay leadership development, as well as other agencies, including Conferences, substantially concerned with clergy and lay leadership development; and take steps to initiate new models or new styles of leadership development, including the possibility of realigning and combining the ministries of all these agencies, including Conferences, currently providing leadership development.

*Objective 2.* To provide church employees with adequate support systems, including the following:

a. *Financial support.* All persons employed by the church should receive adequate compensation. General salary recommendations, which can be used by Associations and Conferences, should be developed by region. All church employees are entitled to an annual salary review and, as a minimum, a cost-of-living increase. In addition, provision should be made for payments, by the employing church agency, of recommended retirement dues and insurance premiums for life, health, and disability protection. There should be an adequate minimum annual pension for retired ministers.

b. *Career support.* To keep theological and leadership skills up to date, all professional leaders of local churches should be encouraged to participate in substantial educational programs two years after beginning full-time work and at five-year intervals thereafter. Congregations should make provision for sabbatical leaves for their professional staff. Continuing education undertaken by professional employees should be paid by the employing agency.

c. *Conferences.* All Conferences should work with churches in the development of contractual arrangements between churches and their employees. Conferences should develop dossiers of churches that would be available to potential professional employees on a confidential basis.

d. *Emotional support.* Provisions should be made for emotional and psychological support for professional staff of the church on the part of Instrumentalities, Conferences, Associations, peer groups, and congregations. Such emotional support is vital in the pluralistic church at times of conflict, change, and crisis.

*Objective 3.* To provide opportunities for the lay members of the churches to study theological and missionary issues as preparation for participation in church leadership and to facilitate lay participation in missionary enterprises.

*Objective 4.* To have the Executive Council of the United Church of Christ appoint a task force on the status and role of women to inquire into and implement the concerns expressed in the Pronouncement on the Status of Women in Church and Society.

*Objective 5.* To disseminate for study throughout the churches the insights of black theology, since there can be no meaningful faith-response until all of us, oppressor and oppressed, are liberated from dehumanizing attitudes and roles.

71-GS-51 VOTED: The Eighth General Synod adopts the following Goal and Objectives for the priority, "The Local Church."

**Goal 3.** To have local congregational life organized for and engaged in mission with other congregations.

*Objective 1.* To include women, minority persons, and the young in the decision-making process of churches, Conferences, and Instrumentalities.

*Objective 2.* To have congregations, Associations, Conferences, and Instrumentalities strengthen their understanding of the stewardship of all of life, as faithful stewards of the gospel, commit themselves to adequate support of *Our Christian World Mission*.

*Objective 3.* To foster collaboration among the denominations and UCC Instrumentalities, Conferences, and Associations to strengthen congregations in

strategic locations in the cities and non-metropolitan areas, and to start new congregations where they are needed.

*Objective 4.* To develop a communication system and the procedures that will facilitate exchange of ideas and information among churches, Conferences, and Instrumentalities and foster thereby a greater sense of participation in our common life.

*Objective 5.* To have the Associations and Conferences explain the potentiality of clustering to each congregation, and to urge the consideration of shared staffing, planning for mission and programing in their local community.

*Objective 6.* To have UCC churches join with other congregations and community organizations in the processes that create and sustain the health of the whole community.

*Objective 7.* To reaffirm our long-term commitment to ecumenical co-operation, doing everything together that can be done, to explore the possibilities of ecumenical action whenever new forms of ministry are being shaped, and to maintain and increase our support of conciliar and other ecumenical organizations at all levels.

71-GS-52 VOTED: The Eighth General Synod adopts the following Goal and Objectives for the priority, "The Local Church."

**Goal 4.** To empower existing and to develop new local black churches of the United Church of Christ and their leadership.

*Objective 1.* To commend the Executive Council for its creation of an interim committee on the empowerment of the local black UCC churches and that the proposal for the empowerment of the local black UCC churches distributed at this General Synod become the basis for future local UCC black program and mission strategy development.

71-GS-53 VOTED: The Eighth General Synod adopts the following Goal and Objectives for the priority, "The Local Church."

**Goal 5.** To commit the United Church of Christ to a concern for the church in pre-transitional and transitional communities.

*Objective 1.* To support financially ministers in pretransitional and transitional communities who wish to participate in training programs designed to equip ministers with the skills needed to serve in congregations in communities of change.

*Objective 2.* To make available the resources of Instrumentalities and Conferences to churches in dealing with pre-transitional and transitional communities.

*Objective 3.* To encourage seminaries to develop and offer training opportunities for leadership of churches in pre-transitional and transitional communities.

71-GS-54 VOTED: The Eighth General Synod adopts the following Goal and Objectives for the priority, "The Local Church."

**Goal 6.** To emphasize that Christian Education is a dimension of all aspects of the life of the Church.

*Objective 1.* To enable churches to develop a process of education which promotes an action-reflection style of learning.

*Objective 2.* To recommend that the action-reflection approach to learning be used as a means of education in addressing the priority issues of the United

Church of Christ (specifically in this biennium—faith, racial justice, world peace, and the local church).

*Objective 3.* To recommend that church curriculum be revitalized to incorporate new alternatives and approaches to education, including viable resources such as human, audio-visual, and laboratory training; that such resources be understandable by persons that have no more than a high school education.

*Objective 4.* To urge Conferences, Associations, and congregations to explore current and evolving alternatives to the traditional style of local churches, and to call upon national agencies, such as the Division of Church Extension of the Board of Homeland Ministries, to assist in these explorations.

In the course of debate on the foregoing Goals and Objectives, the Rev. Norman F. Rust, Maine Conference, proposed as a Goal that at least half of the funds in the national budget of the United Church of Christ which are set aside specifically for priorities be allocated to the faith crisis in the local church as the highest priority. Subsequently, Mr. Rust's motion was lost.

During debate on this proposal, the Rev. John C. Mickle, chairman of the Budget Committee, explained the budget-making process. He said that the \$1-million set apart for priorities consists of dollars which otherwise would have been allocated to Instrumentalities in response to their budget requests. The intention in setting aside \$1-million for priorities was to be able to fund new national programs proposed by an Instrumentality, or by Instrumentalities jointly, which the Executive Council might deem most likely to make substantial progress toward priority accomplishment. He emphasized that in the Budget Committee's view the distribution of the priority funds is to be left to the Executive Council.

Mr. Mickle restated this point-of-view with renewed emphasis in response to a subsequent question.

President Moss expressed the hope that it is understood that the \$1-million for priorities is not the only source of funds in the national budget for strengthening the local church and dealing with the faith crisis. He pointed out that the Board for Homeland Ministries, the Council for Church and Ministry and others are involved in these matters in their on-going and regular work.

### *5. Remarks by Mr. Merrill Ottwein*

Assistant Moderator Wagner recognized Mr. Merrill Ottwein, Illinois South Conference, who described his frustration as a delegate in voting on the matters that had been brought before the General Synod and of his concern for the result of the decisions made as they may affect the local churches. His remarks are included in the Appendix.

### *6. Action on resolution on Church and State*

Moderator Pfeiffer assumed the gavel, the session having been extended past the time of scheduled recess. He recognized the Rev. Edward L. Kohlmann, Illinois Conference, to speak to the resolution printed below. It had been introduced by title as new business and referred to the Business Committee, which now reported it to the General Synod. The resolution originated in the Salem Evangelical Church of Quincy, Ill., of which Mr. Kohlmann is pastor, and was adopted in June, 1971, by the Illinois Conference in annual meeting and by the Presbyterian Synod of Illinois.

*Be it resolved* that the General Synod of the United Church of Christ concurs with the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ and the Illinois Synod of the Presby-