

Mr. Evans announced also that Mr. Nicholas Rahn, Penn Northeast Conference, suffered a heart attack early Tuesday morning and had been taken to a Grand Rapids hospital. The delegates and visitors stood to offer silent prayers for Mr. Rahn's recovery.

2. Introduction of new and continuing members of the Executive Council

The Moderator recognized President Moss who introduced the newly elected members of the Executive Council and presented the continuing members. He explained that following the General Synod and before leaving Grand Rapids, the new Executive Council would meet to organize and elect a chairman and vice-chairman.

3. Final report of the Budget Committee

Moderator Pfeiffer recognized the Rev. John Charles Mickle, chairman of the Budget Committee, to offer that committee's final report. Before presenting it, Mr. Mickle introduced the members of the Budget Committee, citing the fact that he himself, Miss Frances Kapitzky, and Mr. Charles H. Lockyear, the Director of Finance and Treasurer, have served on the Budget Committee for ten years, and that Miss Kapitzky has been the secretary for eight of them.

He called attention to the fact that at the end of the Eighth General Synod the present Budget Committee would go out of existence since its duties will be assumed by the Executive Council. This is a requirement of Bylaws which become effective at the end of this General Synod's sessions. In anticipation of this change and at the invitation of the Budget Committee, representatives of the Executive Council have met with the Budget Committee and taken part in its discussions.

Mr. Mickle then moved adoption of the proposed annual budget for 1972 and 1973 as set forth in the report of the Budget Committee in *Advance Reports*, Index 6, pages 2 through 8. His motion was seconded, and it was

71-GS-62 VOTED: The Eighth General Synod adopts as the budget for the next biennium the annual budget for 1972 and 1973 as it appears in *Advance Reports*, Index 6, pages 2 through 8.

The budget as adopted will be found in the Appendix.

4. Action on a Budget Committee recommendation

Mr. Mickle moved a recommendation from the Budget Committee and, duly seconded, it was

71-GS-63 VOTED: The Eighth General Synod recommends to the Executive Council that it consider the following criteria in assigning national funds for carrying out the priority programs:

To give funding preference to those national agencies of the United Church of Christ

1. who are committed to the work for the achievement of a specific priority,
2. who have had a record of achievement in the field, or
3. who are currently conducting programs dealing with the specific priority.

5. Further response and action: Peace and United States Power

Assistant Moderator Ledbetter assumed the gavel as consideration turned to additional recommendations from the Exploration Unit on the "Peace and United States Power" priority. The Rev. Fred A. Wenner, chairman of that Exploration Unit, came to the platform.

Violations of International Laws of Warfare

Mr. Wenner offered a resolution on "Violations of International Laws of Warfare," as follows:

Background

Ancient traditions of war, updated by international agreements such as the Hague and Geneva Conventions, as well as the concept of the just war, insist that noncombatants are to be given immunity and prisoners are to be treated humanely. When these laws of war have been observed, countless innocent people have been spared and the brutalization of soldiers has, at least, been diminished.

The United States in particular has shown a strong interest in the laws of war. Following World War II, the U.S., as the victorious power, initiated the international tribunal of Nuremberg and the military tribunal in Japan by which many violators of the laws of war were tried and some convicted.

The U.S. Supreme Court upheld the conviction of General Yamashita. It ruled that he was responsible for his command which, in disarray, massacred prisoners of war and slaughtered civilians in the Philippines, even though he was not charged with ordering this, and there was no evidence that he even knew about it.

In the current war in Indochina all parties are violating the laws of war.

The North Vietnamese have violated the Geneva Conventions about prisoners of war (which they signed with reservations), by refusing to disclose officially a list of captured military men or to transmit mail through official channels. They have refused to permit international inspection teams to visit the camps.

The National Liberation Front has engaged in the assassination of village leaders and in mortar, grenade, and bombing attacks on urban centers.

The U.S. Government has violated the laws of war on a very large scale. It turns captured military men over to the South Vietnamese despite clear evidence that they are often tortured and confined to inhumane conditions. But far more serious, the U.S., a highly technological society, conducts war on the rural, agrarian societies of Indochina under policies which seem designed deliberately to inflict severe damage on civilians.

These policies—"body count," "free-fire" zones, the relocation of populations through the pacification program, search-and-destroy operations, a systematic program of assassinations, the use of herbicides to destroy crops (now in the process of being discontinued), and above all the saturation bombings—these policies are responsible for hundreds of thousands of civilian deaths and millions of refugees in Indochina.

We condemn all violations of international law but especially those policies which intentionally involve the dislocation and destruction of civilians. Specific violators of international law should be prosecuted according to established procedures.

Resolution

The Eighth General Synod directs the Executive Council to assign responsibility to the appropriate Instrumentalities of the Church to:

1. Disseminate widely throughout the UCC information about the laws of war so that a new level of consciousness may develop which will stop violations now and in the future.
2. Urge the military to intensify its efforts to educate its personnel on the international agreements about the laws of war and the consequences of their violations.
3. Urge revisions of military policy so that occasions for violations of the laws of war are reduced to an absolute minimum.

4. Urge the President of the United States to convene an official Commission on War Crimes; or, if this has not been accomplished by January 1, 1972, initiate, through the National Council of the Churches of Christ or some other ecumenical forum, an inquiry into the extent of violations of international law in the Indochina war.

Mr. Wenner moved, there was a second, and it was

71-GS-64 VOTED: The Eighth General Synod adopts the resolution on "Violations of International Laws of Warfare."

U.S. Aid to Pakistan

Mr. Wenner requested that the privilege of voice be granted to the Rev. H. Telfer Mook, Regional Secretary of the United Church Board for World Ministries, so that he might speak to a proposed resolution on "U.S. Aid to Pakistan." Mr. Mook was accorded voice and he presented the following resolution and addressed the General Synod concerning it.

Be it resolved that the Eighth General Synod of the United Church of Christ:

1. Deplores the flouting of the democratic process in Pakistan after a free and fair election, and the subsequent massacre of thousands in the East by the army of the Pakistan government, thereby causing the fleeing of over six million refugees across the border into India.

2. Recommends to members of the UCC that they immediately urge the President of the United States and their elected representatives in Congress:

(a) To continue and enforce the present ban on selling or giving arms to the government of Pakistan;

(b) To suspend immediately general economic aid to the government of Pakistan, unilaterally or through any consortium, until such time as the government ceases to use its Western armed forces to occupy the East, and negotiates a peaceful settlement with the people of that area;

(c) To donate food and medical supplies to the government of Pakistan for distribution only in the East and only under United Nations auspices; and

(d) To increase grants to the government of India, in economic aid and/or food and medical supplies, to help to offset the great cost of caring for the newly arrived refugees pending a political settlement which would enable them to return to their homeland.

3. Urges the members of the UCC to participate generously through the Service Division of the Board for World Ministries and the co-operative ecumenical program to relieve the plight of these six million refugees.

4. Requests the President of the UCC to transmit a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, and to the National Council of Churches for reference to other denominations; and further to urge Instrumentalities, Conferences, and local churches to bring all possible influence to implement these recommendations.

Upon motion, duly seconded, it was

71-GS-65 VOTED: The Eighth General Synod adopts the resolution on "U.S. Aid to Pakistan."

Ecumenical Implementation

Mr. Wenner proposed for the priority, "Peace and U.S. Power," a statement offered by Dr. H. Ward Alter, Northern California Conference, calling for ecumenical im-