

goal." The motion was seconded. Upon being put to a vote, the motion was lost.

There was additional discussion on the motion to adopt alternative 1 of the small group. It was

73-GS-37 VOTED: The General Synod adopts the following statement on Evangelism:

The Ninth General Synod calls upon the people in the local congregations of the church, all Associations and Conferences, and all agencies and institutions to give high priority to the evangelistic witness of the United Church of Christ in the next biennium.

The Ninth General Synod proclaims that evangelism is the costly and joyous response of the people to God's acts in Christ and through His disciples in every age. It is not an activity separate unto itself, but it is related to the total life of the church. For the United Church of Christ evangelism must be a matter of telling the story and living it, of being God's people and of celebrating God's grace.

#### 7. Assistant Moderator Elected

The Moderator recognized Secretary Evans who announced the results of the contest between Mr. Chas W. Elicker and Mr. Peter Thundercloud for the office of Assistant Moderator. Mr. Elicker received 468 votes. Mr. Thundercloud received 82 votes. Mr. Elicker is elected.

#### 8. Criminal Justice—Penal Reform (Excessive Bail)

Moderator Colwell recognized Chairman Smith of the Executive Council who referred the delegates to the report and recommendation on Excessive Bail, page 56 in *Advance Materials*, Section III. Mr. Smith moved the adoption of the recommendation and there was a second. A motion was made to amend the motion to adopt alternative II which would add a statement to the original recommendation. The motion was seconded, and it was

73-GS-38 VOTED: The General Synod adopts the statement as amended on Excessive Bail.

The Ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ

1. Denounces the practice of setting excessive bail, especially in the case of political activists.

2. Calls upon the Criminal Justice Priority Team of the United Church of Christ to develop viable revisions and alternatives to cash bail and transmit those revisions to our membership, to congressmen, and legislators.

3. Make available staff consultative and financial support for local programs which share this goal, and for Conferences which in cooperation with other agencies are working toward this goal; said support may come in the form of a pilot project in one or more Conferences.

#### 9. Criminal Justice—Penal Reform (Reinstitution of Capital Punishment)

Mr. Smith referred the delegates to the report and recommendation on Reinstitution of Capital Punishment, page 56 in *Advance Materials*, Section III, Mr. Smith moved the adoption of the recommendation and there was a second. A motion was made to amend the motion to adopt alternative 1, plus alternative II, which would substitute these statements for the original recommendation. The motion was seconded, and it was

73-GS-39 VOTED: The General Synod adopts the statement on Reinstitution of Capital Punishment.

The Ninth General Synod urges the United Church of Christ:

1. through the Office of the President and in conjunction with the 40 Conferences of the United Church of Christ to communicate our continuing opposition to capital punishment and its reinstatement in the American judicial system; and

2. to continue to make available staff, consultative and financial support for the United Church of Christ and community-based programs to prevent the reinstatement of capital punishment in any state and support repeal of capital punishment in states where the death penalty has been reinstated;

3. to make available information and study resources for Conferences, Associations, and local churches concerning capital punishment.

#### 10. Criminal Justice—Penal Reform (Post Incarceration Discrimination) Issue

Mr. Smith referred the delegates to the report and recommendation on Post Incarceration Discrimination, page 56 in *advance materials*. Mr. Smith moved the adoption of the recommendation and there was a second. A motion was made to amend the motion to adopt alternative 1 which would substitute a statement for the original recommendation. There was a second to the motion.

A motion was made and seconded to amend the motion to add an additional paragraph to the statement. This amendment was adopted.

A motion was made and seconded to amend the alternative to add a fifth part to the statement "No person shall be disqualified from employment by public or private employers simply because of a felony conviction unless there is a direct relationship between the felony committed and the position of employment sought or the specific occupation, trade, vocation, profession or business for which a license, permit or certificate is sought, in which case disqualification shall be dropped five years after completion of sentence. When put to a vote, the motion was lost.

There was further discussion, and it was

73-GS-40 VOTED: The General Synod adopts the statement as amended on Post Incarceration Discrimination:

Whereas employment discrimination against ex-offenders is a major reason that ex-offenders revert to a life of crime in an attempt to survive,

Whereas it is not only consistent with Christian principles but also good public policy to encourage and contribute to the rehabilitation of felons and to assist them in the assumption of the responsibilities of citizenship, and

Whereas the opportunity to obtain employment or to pursue, practice or engage in a meaningful and profitable trade, occupation, vocation, profession or business is an essential ingredient in the assumption of the responsibilities of citizenship,

Be It Resolved That the Ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ

1. Urge the United States Congress and the legislative bodies of the fifty states and their subdivisions to enact legislation which will guarantee that no person shall be disqualified from employment by public or private employers simply because of a felony conviction;

2. Call on the Conferences, Associations, and congregations to urge that public and private employment and licensing policies relative to ex-offenders in their areas be consistent with this resolution.