

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.

MONDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 25

3. Direct the United Church of Christ Criminal Justice Priority Team to make available to the United Church of Christ membership informational and consultative services on the statutory regulations and procedures that discriminate against ex-offenders.

4. Direct the Criminal Justice Priority Team to give education and direction to the churches in order that they may

be effective, not simply in seeing to it that released prisoners may not be discriminated against within the community, but that the church may truly seek and receive them in the warmth of Christian love and do its best to assure their wholeness as persons.

The General Synod was in recess at 5:35 p.m.

MONDAY EVENING, JUNE 25

The Ninth General Synod was called to order on Monday, June 25, 1973 at 7:30 p.m. by Moderator David G. Colwell.

1. Proposal of an additional Standing Rule

Moderator Colwell recognized the Rev. Robert Jackman (MASS) who moved that a new standing rule #18 be adopted, "no delegate may speak to an issue and then move the previous question." The motion was seconded. This would require a renumbering of the standing rules following #18. The Moderator informed Mr. Jackman that a one day notice is required before action can be taken to make an addition to the Standing Rules. Mr. Jackman stated that he is giving such notice and the Moderator informed the General Synod that the proposed new standing rule would be considered by General Synod Tuesday morning, June 26.

2. Criminal Justice—Human Rights—Wilmington Crisis Issue

Moderator Colwell recognized Chairman Smith of the business committee. On behalf of the business committee Mr. Smith moved the adoption of the recommendation on the Wilmington Crisis as proposed by the small group. A motion was made to amend the motion to adopt a revised alternative II on the Wilmington Crisis. There was a second to the motion.

The Moderator recognized Mr. Irv Joyner of the staff of the Commission for Racial Justice. Mr. Joyner reviewed some of the facts related to the charges, incarceration, trials, and posting of bond for the Rev. Ben Chavis in connection with his activities on behalf of the Commission for Racial Justice. The nine people mentioned in the resolution, known as the Wilmington Nine, are persons who came under legal attack because of their efforts and commitment as they joined with Mr. Chavis and the Commission for Racial Justice's North Carolina-Virginia office in attempting to deal with some of the problems that exist in a powerless black community in Wilmington, N.C. This became a tense and often violent struggle during which Mr. Chavis and the Wilmington Nine were sentenced to prison terms ranging from ten to thirty-four years with bail ranging from \$20,000 to \$50,000 in spite of the fact that most of these people were indigent. Mr. Joyner urged the adoption of the alternative to provide a bond of \$350,000 to secure the release from prison of the nine persons while appeals are pending.

In response to a question about the bond provided for Mr. Chavis, Mr. Kenneth Stewart of the Executive Council stated that the bond had been provided on the basis of the then existing policy of the Church that when staff persons of an Instrumentality in the line of duty become involved in situations they are entitled to the support of the Church.

There was extended discussion on the financial implications of providing the bond, the effect of such an action on the churches of the Southern Conference, a report by the Rev. Mineo Katagiri, assistant to the President of the Church, of his visit to Wilmington, N.C. to investigate the situation, and other suggestions for providing such a bond.

The Moderator recognized the Rev. Harry W. Bredeweg who moved that this matter be referred to the Finance and Budget Committee of the Executive Council and representatives of the Commission for Racial Justice for consideration and suggestions for funding and to report back to this General Synod at a time to be determined by the business committee. The motion was seconded and when put to a vote it was adopted.

3. Recognition of the Rev. Louis W. Goebel

The Moderator recognized President Moss who presented to the Ninth General Synod the Rev. Louis W. Goebel, former President of the Evangelical and Reformed Church. Dr. Goebel received the applause of the General Synod. He extended warm greetings to the delegates and officers of the Church, concluding with these words: "May you grow in the faith which alone can be the basis of a happy and successful ministry in the Church of Jesus Christ."

4. Task Force on Women in Church and Society

Moderator Colwell requested the delegates to refer to page 40 of *Advance Materials*, Section III, to the recommendations of the Task Force on Women in Church and Society and to three other documents related to the report, the alternative I, the amendment proposed by Carol Ann Quinley, and the Task Force Supplement.

The Moderator recognized Chairman Smith of the Executive Council who explained that in making the motion in the afternoon to adopt the original recommendation of the Task Force on Women he did not include in the motion an additional statement from the Task Force on Women. This statement has been distributed and is identified as a Task Force Supplement and is included in the motion to adopt the original recommendation.

The Moderator reminded the delegates that an amendment to the amendment had been made and is now before the General Synod. There was discussion and when put to a vote the motion was adopted.

There was additional discussion including a statement by Ms. Louise Wallace, co-chairperson of the Task Force on Women.

A motion was made and seconded to delete "F" of the alternative I recommendation: "A new statement of faith will be written using inclusive language," and "J": "The United Church of Christ will call upon the Instrumentalities and related ecumenical agencies to take steps to translate the Bible in a manner faithful to the original language and sensitive to the experience of both women and men in the community of faith, and report progress at the Tenth General Synod."

When the motion was put to vote, the Moderator declared the motion was lost. The Moderator was challenged on his ruling and there was a call for a division of the house on this issue. A standing division of the house indicated 332 in favor