

The report concluded with the sacramental serving of grapes, the gift of growers who had signed contracts with the United Farm Workers and the singing of "Let Us Share Grapes Together in God's Name" as the pilgrims left the platform.

6. Report of witness for farm workers in St. Louis

Moderator Colwell recognized Mr. Tilford Dudley of the staff of the Council for Christian Social Action to report on the picketing of a store in St. Louis. Mr. Dudley explained that the Teamsters Union office had not been picketed since upon inquiry it had been learned that the Teamsters Joint Council locally is quite different from Teamsters nationally and in California. The St. Louis Teamsters Union has a record of assisting in civil rights of the poor and support of Cesar Chavez, so that to have picketed the local Teamsters Union office would have been misinterpreted. The decision was made not to picket the local Teamsters but instead to picket a large supermarket known as Schnuck's. The management of Schnuck's met with representatives of the pickets to enable the concerns and position of the United Church of Christ in the plight of farm workers to be expressed. The picket line was carried out in an orderly manner and without violence.

7. Statement on Watergate

The Moderator recognized the Rev. Lawrence L. Gruman (WIS) who moved to suspend the rules to permit the introduction of a statement on the moral issues raised by the events surrounding the Watergate incident. The motion was seconded. Upon being put to a vote, the motion was lost.

8. Amnesty Issue

The Moderator recognized Chairman Smith of the Executive Council who referred the delegates to page 60 of *Advance Materials*, Section III. Mr. Smith moved the adoption of the recommendation. There was a second. A motion was made to amend the motion to adopt alternative I. The motion was seconded and there was discussion. Motions were made and adopted to modify language, insert phrases and make deletions. It was

73-GS-42 VOTED: The General Synod adopts as amended the statement on Amnesty, entitled "To Heal a Nation."

TO HEAL A NATION

The U.S. has been engaged in a war which has been both divisive at home and devastating to the land and peoples of Southeast Asia. Parent and child, brother and sister have been turned against each other as a result of having to make the hard decisions of ethics, conscience and loyalties caused by the war. At no time since the Civil War has the nation been so divided. We are a generation of persons suffering physical, mental, social and legal damage as a result of that division. Whether that damage resulted from participation in the war or opposition to it, it has caused suffering for persons and families who are, in some sense, all veterans of that war. In the war's aftermath we are sorely tempted to act in a judgmental and vindictive manner towards those whose decisions and actions have differed from our own.

As members of Christ's church, we are called to be agents of reconciliation, reconciled to God and reconciling persons to persons. In faithfulness to the Gospel, which instructs us to love our enemies, we are led in the ways of justice, truth, and peace to declare the love of God for all in each place and condition. As God's love was incarnate in the person of

Jesus Christ, his disciples' love must be incarnate in acts as well as words. The people of God in the church must be concerned for all human beings, regardless of the positions they may have taken or acts they may have done. Although we may not be able to agree with, or even understand, the positions or actions of others, we recognize them as children of God, created in his image, loved by Him, and requiring our love and understanding. In the context of the war in Southeast Asia, religious communities are called to seek the meaning of the sacrifice made by all involved, here and there.

The Ninth General Synod recognizes that the United Church of Christ has a heavy responsibility to act as a reconciling and healing agent in the world. Previous General Synods have already called both for the reconciliation of amnesty for those opposed to the war and the reconciliation of adequate, speedy rehabilitation and return to the mainstream of civilian life for those who participated in the war. As stated by the Seventh General Synod, "... this nation needs, and is strong enough to embrace, both those who have engaged in the ... conflict, and those who have opposed it." This General Synod now answers the call to responsibility and declares our commitment.

The Ninth General Synod, while reaffirming the position declared in the 7th and 8th General Synods of unconditional amnesty, hereby establishes for the next two years the following action program of the United Church of Christ:

This program will seek to involve us as individual members, as congregations, as Associations and Conferences, as Instrumentalities, and as the whole United Church of Christ to conduct all of our ongoing programs at all levels in the light of our determination to bring healing to the nation in the aftermath of the Southeast Asia War. In addition to such ongoing programs, the General Synod calls on:

Individual members, to seek through prayer and study to:

1. understand the meaning of God's reconciling love in our lives and actions;
2. understand the reasons behind both opposition to and participation in the war;
3. understand the damage suffered by those persons who participated in or opposed the war;
4. carry out in our lives reconciling and healing ministries to such persons, including encouragement and support for both private and public actions.

Congregations, to seek to:

1. provide the means by which our members through prayer and study may find the understanding and means to be reconciling agents in our communities;
2. create a climate of healing in our communities by building ties to all who have been damaged by the war;
3. provide leadership in our communities for public and private actions which work to repair that damage;
4. share with our Associations and Conferences the experiences and insights which we have gained from our activities.

Associations and Conferences, to seek to:

1. assist congregations in developing understanding and action toward healing and reconciliation in our areas;
2. provide means and resources from which may be drawn information, leadership, and coordination for our ministries;
3. provide resource teams that are equipped in leadership skills to assist local congregations;

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4. share with the Executive Council the experiences and insights gained from our activities toward understanding and achieving, healing and reconciliation in our area.

Instrumentalities, to seek to:

1. assist members, local churches, Associations and Conferences, in developing understanding and actions To Heal A Nation;

2. provide means and resources from which may be drawn information, leadership, and coordination;

3. conduct regular programs in the light of the goal To Heal A Nation, seeking to coordinate them through the Executive Council and the combined resources of the President's Office, inter-Instrumentality teams, the Office for Church Life and Leadership and through the Council for Christian Social Action.

In addition, the General Synod recommends that the inter-Instrumentality peace team seek to support the program, "To Heal A Nation," by submitting a proposal for priority funding for 1974.

9. A Sense of Moral Breakdown Issue

Moderator Colwell recognized Chairman Smith of the Executive Council who referred the delegates to page 51, *advance materials*. Mr. Smith moved the adoption of the recommendation. There was a second. A motion was made to amend the motion to adopt alternative I. The motion was seconded and there was discussion. A motion was made and adopted to add a phrase to a paragraph in the alternative recommendation. It was

73-GS-43 VOTED: The General Synod adopts as amended the statement on A Sense of Moral Breakdown:

The Ninth General Synod expresses its concern for the moral breakdown in our society, and confesses the deep contrition of our church for its involvement in moral failure, wishes to affirm the moral responsibility of individual Christians, but also strongly urges that the program agencies of the Church as a whole address this problem in ways appropriate to their respective program portfolios.

1. By giving major consideration to a united religious effort among all religious communities on this matter. The effort should not be to re-establish old "rules of morality" but rather to replace our privatized self concern with an outward-oriented concern for others and for corporate expressions of morality.

2. By urging our Christian education programs to emphasize and provide opportunities for experiencing the

moral dimensions of the faith, not only in doing for others but in being for others. This would emphasize the church not only as a servant of the community but as a redemptive community, the leaven in the loaf.

3. By devising programs which would involve church related agencies in a fresh consideration of personal and corporate morality; such agencies as church-related colleges and academies, welfare institutions, public universities, etc.

4. By expanding the scope of the program to include churches and Christians in other countries to make their witness on this concern in a "Mission to America," thus providing us as Americans with new insights and correctives.

5. By calling into question those hierarchical structures which are racist, sexist, and oppressive, that prevent a sharing of power, ignore a wholistic view of values and blunt an individual's use of conscience.

10. Results of the Election

The Moderator recognized Secretary Evans who announced the election results. Mr. Evans stated that in each instance the nominee from the floor for the Council for Lay Life and Work, the Board for World Ministries, Laywomen, Class of 1979, and the Board for Homeland Ministries, Laywomen, Class of 1979 were defeated and the nominees of the Nominating Committee were elected. Mr. Evans gave the results of the voting for the Nominating Committee, Class of 1979 and indicated the three lay persons elected are:

Mr. Paul Gallegos (SW)

Mrs. Marjorie L. Enman (NH)

Mrs. Wilma Matson (KO)

and the ministers elected are:

The Rev. Janet Ray (PC)

The Rev. Marilyn L. Stavenger (OHIO)

The Rev. Alfred E. Dwenger (IOWA)

The Moderator recognized Mr. Robert Carlson (CAL.N) who raised a point of order and questioned whether the election of the persons to the Nominating Committee complies with the requirement of Bylaw 207 that all committees elected by the General Synod must be composed of 20% of persons under 30 years of age.

Mr. Evans stated that he would have to examine the record and he was not prepared at this time to give an answer to the question. The Moderator requested Mr. Evans to provide an answer at the session the next morning.

The Moderator declared the General Synod to be in recess at 12:45 a.m. (after midnight).

TUESDAY MORNING, JUNE 26

The Ninth General Synod was called to order on Tuesday, June 26, 1973 at 8:30 a.m. by Moderator David G. Colwell.

1. Limit Debate on Africa Resolution

The Moderator recommended that debate and discussion on the Africa resolution be limited to thirty minutes. A motion was made and seconded and by the required two-thirds vote, it was

73-GS-44 VOTED: The General Synod limits debate on the resolution on Africa to thirty minutes.

2. Adoption of a new Standing Rule

The Moderator reminded the General Synod of the notice given on Monday, June 25, that a new Standing Rule #18

would be proposed this morning. The Moderator recognized the Rev. Robert Jackman (MASS) who moved the adoption of a new Standing Rule #18, with subsequent renumbering, that "no delegate may speak to an issue and then move the previous question." The motion was seconded, and it was

73-GS-45 VOTED: The General Synod adopts a new Standing Rule #18: "No delegate may speak to an issue and then move the previous question."

3. Persons under 30 on the Nominating Committee

The Moderator reminded the General Synod of the point of order that had been raised the evening before regarding the under 30 representation on the Nominating Committee, Class of 1979. The Moderator recognized Secretary Evans.