

on Theological Education. Mr. Smith moved the adoption of the recommendations in the report and there was a second to the motion. A motion was made and seconded to adopt alternative II which would include the original recommendations plus one additional recommendation. It was

73-GS-63 VOTED: The General Synod adopts the following statement on theological education:

A Call to the United Church of Christ

The General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon the Executive Council, the Instrumentalities, the Conferences and local churches to join with the seminaries in preparing men and women for ministry to meet the needs of the churches for competent, skilled pastoral leadership; to provide continuing education of the clergy; and to train the laity for mission. The churches need leaders who are committed to the Gospel and are able to proclaim it. They are seeking pastors and teachers who can help persons relate the Faith of the Church to individual and social concerns. The churches seek clergy who understand the pain which is present both in the church and in the world and can face it with hope.

It will be important for the churches and seminaries to consult with each other about the nature and quality of professional preparation, new ways of responding to the Gospel and to the realities of the Church's life, and the financial resources needed to keep the institutions serving. The seminaries should take the initiative with the Conferences and churches in their regions to develop a consultative style. The General Synod recognizes an interrelated regional and national responsibility for the support of theological education.

1. The Ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ recognizes a national responsibility for the support of theological education and therefore provides the funds needed to carry out the functions of correlation, advocacy and trusteeship from basic support in OCWM.

Correlation means the development of a comprehensive and wholistic national strategy for theological education that embraces every level of the Church and includes and reaches out to all schools of theology related to the Seminary Section. It includes the formation of long and short-term goals and the development of criteria by which the quality of what we are doing may be evaluated in terms of the emerging needs of ministry in the United Church of Christ. Correlation may also include the compilation of statistical data which is necessary for planning and decision making, the continuing assessment of the needs of the Church, and an inventory of what is presently taking place in theological education so we can build for the future, and dramatize what is now taking place.

Advocacy means the broadening of an understanding of the place of theological education in the Church, and encouraging investment in it, fostering in many different ways the reality that theological education in a seminary, Conference, Association or local church is not meant to rest on the periphery, but to be at the center of our life together. And that, therefore, it must have our attention, our participation, and support.

Trusteeship means the wise use of the funds set aside by the General Synod for support of theological education. These funds should be used to enable programs that will increase competence in ministry, and to finance research that will contribute to the effectiveness of theological education.

2. The Ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ strongly affirms the life and work of the six closely related seminaries—Andover Newton, Bangor, Chicago, Eden, Lancaster and United—and offers them all possible encouragement and support in fulfilling their ministry.

It is out of the conviction that theological education is integral to the mission and purpose of the Church that this affirmation is made. The Church needs its seminaries. The Church should say so. However, the seminaries need also to be responsive to the churches. To affirm and encourage the seminaries includes criticism, conversation, mutual planning and the ability to speak, but, also to listen to one another for the sake of the life of the whole Church.

3. The Ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ recognizes a regional responsibility for the support of theological education and that funds for the support of the six seminaries be the responsibility of the Conferences and local congregations.

The Ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges Conferences and local churches to develop policies which enable their participation in, caring for, and support of theological education. Conferences and local churches need the resources of theological seminaries to:

1) Develop competent professional leadership and sustain significant continuing education for clergy;

2) Confront anew the biblical and theological insights which call the church to mission and to aid in equipping the laity for leadership in that mission.

Theological seminaries of the United Church of Christ depend upon the Conferences and local churches to:

1) Identify the needs of the laity, clergy and churches—as essential data for the responsible shaping of the style and content of theological education;

2) Identify, recruit and support persons for leadership in ministry;

3) Provide substantial and regular financial support to undergird the life and work of the theological seminaries.

The General Synod recognizes the diverse patterns within the United Church of Christ for developing relationships and support of theological education—such as the formula developed by the Ohio Conference; the patterns followed by the several mid-western Conferences related to the support of Chicago-United-Eden; the support of Penn Conferences for Lancaster; and the New England relationships. It is hoped that the Office for Church Life and Leadership, in collaboration with Conferences and seminaries, will explore patterns of developing increasingly effective ways to involve the whole Church and the seminaries in supporting and ministering to one another.

4. The Ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges that the tasks of correlation-advocacy-trusteeship be a major responsibility of the proposed Office for Church Life and Leadership.

The Committee on Theological Education concurs in the recommendation of the Task Force on Leadership Development that the responsibility for theological education be lodged with the Office for Church Life and Leadership. If correlation, advocacy, and trusteeship are to be effectively performed in the Church they will require a place of im-

portance and visibility in the new structure. The extent to which this occurs, the Committee believes, will be a major factor in the future development of pastoral and lay leadership for the United Church of Christ.

5. The Ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges that the concern for theological education be clearly designated as a major responsibility of a staff person within the Office for Church Life and Leadership.

There have been numerous commissions and committees on theological education in the United Church of Christ during the past decade and more. Each has affirmed the importance of theological education in the Church. The present Committee does not wish to see this work lost. Rather, it should be built upon and expanded in behalf of the Church. If the General Synod agrees that correlation, advocacy, and trusteeship on behalf of theological education are national responsibilities, then someone should be accountable for enabling the national functioning and encouraging the regional task. Otherwise, the necessary work will not be done. This will require the attention of knowledgeable and gifted persons who can work effectively with Conferences, Instrumentalities, the seminaries and the Committee on Theological Education or its successor.

6. The Ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges that the consultative process begun by the Committee on Theological Education become the responsibility of the Office for Church Life and Leadership.

By the consultative process, the Committee means the process whereby representatives of seminaries, Conferences, Instrumentalities and the Committee on Theological Education can meet to discuss their vision and the needs of theological education in mutually planning, implementing, and evaluating strategic programs to increase professional competence in the Church's total ministry.

7. The Ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges that during the development period of the Office for Church Life and Leadership, three and one-half per cent of national basic support, OCWM, be designated within the budget allocations of General Synod for funding the tasks of correlation, advocacy and trusteeship.

The Committee on Theological Education is concerned that during the developmental period of the Office for Church Life and Leadership national funds available for the support of theological education be at least at the \$315,000 allocation level of 1972 and 1973.

8. The Ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges that the Office for Church Life and Leadership in consultation with pertinent instrumentalities and judicatories and the seminaries of the United Church of Christ plan for the training of paraprofessionals to serve churches which cannot support full-time ordained pastoral leadership.

Out of the knowledge that 25% of the congregations of the United Church of Christ have fewer than 100 members and another 50% have fewer than 300 members, we recognize that these congregations may not be able to support fully-trained, full-time, ordained pastors. As a denomination we also recognize that theological education is essential for the pastoral leaders of these congregations and that their preparation may not be in the form of a 3-year degree program of study. To fill this gap of congregations needing pastors which are more skilled or specially trained beyond the laity training proposed by the Leader-

ship Development Task Force, special research into this area is urged between training for lay persons on one hand and ordained ministers on the other. This research is essential so that new patterns of training can be developed which neither lead to a second-rate class of pastors nor compete with degreed professionals but provide for new models, in a pluralistic style of ministry, which enhance the mission of such local congregations and celebrate their existence rather than declaring their ineptness.

The responsibility and task of the United Church of Christ is to affirm theological education as one of the functioning gifts of the Spirit in the Body of Christ. Theological education is called as God's servant to prepare men and women for a ministry that embraces all "the breadth and length and height and depth" of his love for the world in Jesus Christ our Lord. To him be glory forever. Amen.

23. Stewards in Support of Mission

The Moderator recognized Chairman Smith of the Executive Council. Mr. Smith referred the delegates to page 66, *Advance Materials*, Section III, and moved the recommendation, which was seconded. A motion was made to amend the motion to adopt alternative I. There was a second and discussion. There were editorial changes and motions adopted to add statements to the alternative statement. It was

73-GS-64 VOTED: The General Synod adopts the statement on Stewards in Support of Mission:

Whereas, there has been a persistent decline in membership of the United Church of Christ at the rate of about 30,000 members per year; and

Whereas, the average gift per member for the total mission of the church is only \$100.00 annually; and

Whereas, a refreshed understanding of the concept of stewardship is urgently needed to relate the faith to modern needs, and to nurture all in the faith; and

Whereas, it is necessary to better interpret the practice and concept of mission in our day,

The Ninth General Synod:

1. Requests each local church to:

- a. Plan and conduct a thorough going program aimed toward educating its members in a refreshed understanding of stewardship and of the local and wider mission of the church that looks seriously at the theological implications of stewardship as they relate to the local church member and the nurture of the faith.

- b. Plan and conduct a well organized process of personally challenging each member or family to give for total mission of the church at least \$1.00 per week of every \$1,000 of annual income.

- c. Request churches to raise their OCWM budgets an additional 5%.

2. Request each Conference and the Stewardship Council to work together to

- a. Take strong initiatives that will encourage local churches to undertake the efforts requested above.

- b. Provide resources and training opportunities that will assist local churches in those efforts.

3. Request local churches, Conferences and national Instrumentalities to give these special efforts high priority in their planning and work during 1974 and 1975.

4. Request the Tenth General Synod to give the highest priority to discussion and programs on how to strengthen local churches and Conferences with the goal of increased membership and increased financial support.

The General Synod was declared to be in recess at 12:30 p.m.