

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.