

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 26

possibility of planning and conducting new projects and new programs with one or more of our partner communions.

9. The Ninth General Synod requests the Council on Mission Priorities to review and evaluate programs funded by the Executive Council, Instrumentalities, Commissions and other agencies of the United Church of Christ, including Conferences, using criteria which will reflect the priority judgments of the Ninth General Synod, including its commitment to ecumenical responsibility; and requests the Council on Mission Priorities to report to the Tenth General Synod.

The following paragraphs are referred to the Executive Council and the Commission on Christian Unity and Ecumenical Study and Service for consideration, and the Executive Council is directed to address these recommendations with utmost seriousness:

10. We re-affirm the *constitutional mandate* of the Commission on Christian Unity and Ecumenical Study and Service, believing that the United Church of Christ needs such a Commission as an expression of our steadfast purpose to be a uniting church and as a constant reminder of that priority objective.

A. We request the Executive Council, in consultation with the Commission, to appoint an administrative secretary who would assist in the coordination of ecumenical participation by the United Church of Christ; gather data concerning ecumenical development; assist the Commission on Christian Unity in fulfilling its constitutional requirements; implementing Commission decisions and researching important questions. The Ecumenical Officer should have the freedom of movement in our communion associated with our chief instrumentality executives, including service on such boards and committees necessary to represent our ecumenical stance and commitment.

B. Having declared our intent to enhance the development of commitment to ecumenism throughout our communion, particularly in regional and local settings, we, therefore, direct the Commission to develop a *style of operation* on an experimental basis during the next biennium which will include establishing *ad hoc* major-issue working groups on a regional basis, the membership to include: members and consultants of the Commission living in the particular region, representative theologians and ecumenical staff in the particular region, and others who can represent regional and local perspectives, expenses to be paid by the Commission.

C. We direct the Commission to undertake a study of the effects of our communion's merger after fifteen years; to examine our communion's Constitution and By-laws and the constitutions, by-laws, operating procedures, and rules of instrumentalities, conferences, and associations to discover possible stumbling blocks to ecumenical cooperation and church union; to disseminate for study throughout the whole church the insights of black theology; and to study methods for our whole church which would encourage dialogue and cooperative action with other world religions.

D. In order to *facilitate communications* between the Commission and the Executive Council, we urge the Council to invite one Commission representative, chosen by the Commission, to attend meetings of the Executive Council with voice but not vote during the next biennium, expenses to be paid by the Executive Council, and we ask the Executive Council to designate its Vice-Chairperson to attend meetings of the Commission.

E. We believe that there is need in the United Church of Christ for clearer ways by which our communion at all

levels can sense *common agendas*, make critical decisions, and remain in constant communication, speaking the truth in love. We, therefore, direct the *Nominating Committee* and the Executive Council for subsequent biennia, working with the President's Office and in consultation with the Commission, to select members and consultants on the Commission in accordance with by-law provisions for equitable distribution of ministers, laymen, laywomen, and youth, and from:

- the UCC delegations to each national or world ecumenical organization,
- theological schools to which our communion relates,
- a variety of local and regional ecumenical agencies in each region,
- the Council on Mission Priorities,
- the Council of Instrumentality Executives,
- expenses to be paid by the Commission.

F. To insure the continuing *inter-relationship* of the Commission on Christian Unity with the interests of the Commissions on Worship and Theology, we recommend the Executive Council, in consultation with the Commission, appoint at least one member of the Commission to a consultant relationship with the Office for Leadership Development, expenses to be paid by the Commission.

11. We request the Executive Council, Officers of the communion, agency executives, conference ministers, interdenominational agencies at all levels, and pastors to insure a *regular flow of materials and information*, pertaining to ecumenical relations and experiences, to the Commission and from it to the whole church. We request the Office of Communication, in consultation with the Commission, to devise a communication system which will enable the sharing of information and recommendations concerning our communion's commitment to ecumenism at all levels, sharing of the happenings of ecumenism everywhere and seeking to counter the negative impressions so often found in media.

12. We direct the Commission on Christian Unity, in cooperation with the Office of the President and the Council on Mission Priorities and the Planning and Correlation Committee of the Executive Council to develop a *system for policy planning*, criteria setting, and evaluation of ecumenical relationships, commitment, and agencies.

13. We instruct the *Committee on Structural Planning* of the Executive Council, one, to conduct its studies in accordance with the above policy statements and in consultation with the Commission on Christian Unity, and, two, to recommend procedures, programs, and structural changes to affirm the policy and to achieve maximum impact of United Church of Christ resources.

14. Further, we recommend that the Commission on Christian Unity publish and distribute a *resource file* on ecumenical expressions of mission and unity, including policy guidelines and processes for the seventies, the budget to be provided from Priority Funds in 1974, and we request that the Office of Communications and the Stewardship Council assist the Commission in developing and distributing the resource file to the churches.

7. Confidentiality of Communication between Clergy and Confessant

Moderator Colwell reminded the delegates that they were now dealing with a substitute motion that had been made by Mrs. Margaret A. Haywood. A substitute motion had also been proposed by the Rev. Theodore S. Ledbetter. A committee

had been appointed to consider the statement and the substitute motions and report to the General Synod.

The Moderator recognized Mrs. Margaret A. Haywood who stated that the makers of both substitute motions wished to withdraw their motions in favor of a new motion. The Moderator declared the substitute motion withdrawn.

Mrs. Haywood moved and it was seconded to substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph in the original document. It was

73-GS-72 VOTED: The General Synod adopts the following statement to be included in the statement on Confidentiality of Communication between Clergy and Confessant:

"Pastoral communications made to a duly ordained minister or accredited lay pastor of the United Church of Christ acting as a minister in his or her professional character are confidential and privileged."

It was

73-GS-73 VOTED: The General Synod adopts as amended the statement on Confidentiality of Communication between Clergy and Confessant.

Recognizing the need of church members for privileged communication with their pastors, and noting that legislative support for such privileged communication is determined separately by each state, and further recognizing that

"Under the common law, communications to clergymen, or other church or ecclesiastical officers, are not privileged, although judges have been reluctant to compel the disclosure of such communications, that rule still obtains except in so far as it has been changed by statute. In the majority of states, however, the common-law rule has been changed by statutes providing in substance that a minister of the gospel or priest of any denomination is incompetent to testify concerning communications made to him in his professional character, in the course of discipline enjoined by the rules of practice of his denomination."†

Therefore, the Ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopts as the official policy of the General Synod:

Pastoral communications made to a duly ordained minister or accredited lay pastor of the United Church of Christ acting as a minister in his or her professional character are confidential and privileged.

And further urges each Conference Committee on the Ministry to develop, consistent with their state statutes, statements requiring that communication made to an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ in his or her professional character be confidential, such statement to be recommended to the Associations of that Conference for their consideration and adoption.

8. Ministries to Military Personnel (Chaplaincy)

The Moderator recognized Chairman Smith of the Executive Council. Mr. Smith referred the delegates to the original document on pp. 61-62, *Advance Materials*, Section III, and moved the adoption of the recommendation. A motion was made to amend the motion to adopt alternative I of the small group report. The motion was seconded. A motion was made to amend the motion by placing alternative II before the General Synod. The motion was seconded.

There was extended discussion on the original report and the alternatives by the Rev. W. James Halfaker, chairman of

†Quoted from *American Jurisprudence*.

the Task Force on Military Personnel, the Rev. Ralph C. Quellhorst, process facilitator for the small group, and Chaplain Herbert M. Goetz, USN, Staff of Chief of Chaplains, Washington, D.C.

It was

73-GS-74 VOTED: The General Synod adopts alternative II to replace alternative I on Ministry to Military Personnel (Chaplaincy).

It was

73-GS-75 VOTED: The General Synod adopts as amended the following stated on Ministry to Military Personnel (Chaplaincy):

The Ninth General Synod approves in principle the Report of the Task Force on Ministries to Military Personnel and requests the Council for Church and Ministry (or its successor) working with other appropriate instrumentalities to:

(1) Review, correct, update, and revise the current report

(2) Reproduce the study in a more adequate fashion and distribute it to all chaplains for review and input before a finalized copy is produced.

(3) Present the final report to the Tenth General Synod.

(4) Procure adequate staff to support a committee on chaplain service that includes a minimum of 3 to 5 chaplains.

(5) Establish and fund periodic conferences mandatory for United Church of Christ chaplains in order to support them and their ministry during this two year period.

(6) To task this Committee on Chaplain Service to consider all options which were introduced by the group on Ministries to Military Personnel.

9. Reconsideration of Action on Priority Budgeting

Moderator Colwell indicated that prior to consideration of the budget there was a desire on the part of some delegates to reconsider the vote of General Synod to allocate 10% of the budget to priority funding.

The Moderator recognized the Rev. Francis X. Pirazzini (MINN) who expressed concern that there appears to be some conflict between the \$775,000 budget item for priorities and the vote taken by the General Synod that 10% of basic support be for priority funding and that it would be desirable to vote to reconsider the vote allocating 10% of basic support for priority funding.

The Moderator recognized the Rev. Ned Burr McKenney of the Executive Council who indicated that as one who had voted in favor of allocating 10% for priorities moved to reconsider the Vote 73-GS-62 and it was seconded:

"The Ninth General Synod reaffirms the concept of priority budgeting as established by the Eighth General Synod, and it further affirms the continuation of the present priorities for the next biennium with 10% of basic support receipts being allocated by the Executive Council as priority funds. While reaffirming the process, the General Synod directs the Executive Council to:

1) develop an ongoing program for evaluation of

(a) the process of prioritizing,

(b) the administration of the funds, and

(c) the priority program itself;

2) keep the constituency of the United Church of Christ informed."