

7. develop and recommend accountability and evaluation procedures;
8. report recommendations at each October Executive Council meeting and be dismissed.

D. The Executive Council shall authorize the implementation of the work of the church related to Priorities Program Development with provision for continuing coordination and evaluation.

E. The Executive Council shall assign national Our Christian World Mission budget for United Church of Christ program development, including Priorities. Funding will be on a "payment schedule" basis, with the understanding that budget adjustments in the allocations for each agency will seek to assure adequate funding to complete the assigned/contracted priorities program. All funding recommendations will be under the jurisdiction of the Finance & Budget Committee.

(The following working timetable in 1975 is recommended for the advisory commission:

- (a) April/May—designating membership
- (b) July—authorization/instruction by Executive Council
- (c) August—several days "working retreat"
- (d) September—preliminary in-progress report to Finance & Budget and Planning & Correlation Committees
- (e) October—finalizing work of advisory commission
- (f) October 26-29—report to Executive Council.)

V. INPUT FOR DETERMINING PRIORITIES FOR THE 1978-1979 BIENNIUM

The Executive Council shall develop a process by which the priorities of local churches, Associations, and Conferences for the work of the United Church of Christ during the following biennium may be ascertained in time to be presented to the Eleventh General Synod, along with priorities submitted by other agencies of the United Church of Christ.

VI. EVALUATION

The Priorities Program Development will be authorized for the 1976-1977 and the 1978-1979 biennia, with appropriate checkpoints and evaluation during the biennia, and a definitive evaluation of the program and recommendations developed by Executive Council for the 1979 General Synod.

9. STEWARDS IN SUPPORT OF MISSION

The Moderator recognized Mr. Bredeweg. On behalf of the business committee Mr. Bredeweg referred the delegates to Advance Materials, Section II, pp 224-226 and moved the adoption of proposal of the Stewardship Council on "Stewards In Support of Mission." Mrs. Barnes was recognized and moved to amend the motion. The amendment was seconded and it was

75-GS-29 VOTED: The General Synod amends the proposal of the Stewardship Council on "Stewards In Support of Mission" with the following changes:

- a. The first and second paragraphs are deleted.
- b. A new preface is to be inserted: "We believe we are freed in Jesus Christ to share joyfully our time, our money, and our abilities, witnessing to the love, care, and forgiveness of God. We believe Jesus Christ invites us, in Word and Deed, to be more effective agents for accomplishing His mission in the world."
- c. The first sentence of the third paragraph is deleted and replaced with the sentence: "Despite signs of hope in

numerous congregations we in the United Church of Christ are not achieving enough."

d. In section A1 insert "Association" in the brackets so the sentence reads: "To emphasize the urgent need for more dollars for the total mission (local, Association, Conference, national, world wide) of the United Church of Christ etc. . ."

e. In section A7 insert "Association" in the brackets so the sentence reads "To attain as the results of efforts made in 1976 \$15 million more in 1977 than in the previous year for the total mission (local, Association, Conference, national, world wide) of the church etc. . ."

f. In section B change the sentence to read: "Requests members, congregations, Associations, Conferences, and instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ to make available both financial and staff support to realize these objectives.

g. Insert a new section C1: "Initiate a process of collaboration with the Office for Church Life and Leadership, the Board for Homeland Ministries, and the Board for World Ministries that will lead to a program of coordinated resources and a process which will enable the local church to look at stewardship in an intentional way."

h. In the old Section C1 which becomes C2 add the phrase "and to prepare a system of continuing evaluation at all levels of participation," so the sentence reads: "Consult individually with each Conference to develop and implement a set of specific action plans tailored for that particular Conference and to prepare a system of continuing evaluation at all levels of participation."

i. Insert a new section E: "The General Synod urges the delegates to make themselves available to promote, interpret, and implement this stewardship proposal."

There was further discussion and clarifying statements about the proposal and it was

75-GS-30 VOTED: The General Synod adopts the program "Stewards In Support of Mission" as amended.

STEWARDS IN SUPPORT OF MISSION

We believe we are freed in Jesus Christ to share joyfully our time, our money, and our abilities, witnessing to the love, care, and forgiveness of God. We believe Jesus Christ invites us, in Word and Deed, to be more effective agents for accomplishing His mission in the world.

Despite signs of hope in numerous congregations we in the United Church of Christ are not achieving enough. Since the beginning of 1970, inflation has risen by more than thirty percent. In the same period current local expenses of congregations have grown by only twenty percent, receipts for Basic Support of Our Christian World Mission have increased by just one percent, and membership has dropped by five percent.

In 1973 the Ninth General Synod passed a resolution, "Stewards in Support of Mission," which suggested some efforts to increase support and included a request that the Tenth General Synod

"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."

Since then developments in the world and in the church have made it increasingly evident that the whole United

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Church of Christ needs to place a much higher priority on efforts to secure more adequate support for the total mission of the church, as some congregations and Conferences are now doing. We want to respond to the opportunities which God gives us, and we can do so.

Therefore, the Tenth General Synod:

A. Endorses the following objectives for the United Church of Christ for the 1976/1977 biennium:

1. To emphasize the urgent need for more dollars for the total mission (local, Association, Conference, national, world wide) of the United Church of Christ by inviting and challenging members and congregations to move in planned stages toward the accomplishment of the previously adopted General Synod guidelines for the support of the mission:

For individuals and families

— A gift for the total mission of the church of at least \$1 per week for every \$1,000 of annual income. (At the present time the denomination-wide average is about 40c per week for every \$1,000 of annual income.)

For congregations

— A gift for Basic Support of Our Christian World Mission which is equal to at least 25% of current local expenses. (At the present time over 400 congregations have reached or exceeded the 25% level, and another 1,250 are between 15% and 25%.)

2. To train carefully selected visitors in each Conference who will meet with congregations to interpret the urgent need for the support of the total mission and to enlist congregations in active participation in this denomination-wide effort.

3. To urge each congregation to undertake a thoroughgoing Christian Enlistment which will benefit both the local church and the wider mission, and to assist congregations in this effort by conducting workshops which will be resourced by Conference and Stewardship Council leaders.

4. To enlist half of the Conferences to participate in these efforts in 1976 and to enlist the other half to participate in 1977.

5. To request each congregation to make annually to the Conference a commitment indicating the number of dollars it intends to provide for Basic Support in the coming year.

6. To request each Conference to make annually a commitment for the coming year indicating:

— the number of dollars it intends to provide for national Basic Support,

— the number of dollars it intends to use for Conference Basic Support,

— the formula it intends to use to divide any Basic Support receipts which are in excess of the sum of its commitments for national Basic Support and Conference Basic Support.

7. To attain as the result of efforts made in 1976 \$15 million more in 1977 than in the previous year for the total mission (local, Association, Conference, national, world wide) of the church including \$1 million more for Conference Basic Support and \$1 million more for national Basic Support, and to attain as the result of efforts made in 1977 \$15 million more in 1978 than in the previous year for the total mission of the church, including \$1 million more for Conference Basic Support and \$1 million more for national Basic Support.

B. Requests members, congregations, Associations, Conferences, and Instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ to make concerted efforts to achieve these objectives.

C. Instructs the Stewardship Council to:

1. Initiate a process of collaboration with the Office for Church Life and Leadership, the Board for Homeland Ministries, and the Board for World Ministries that will lead to a program of coordinated resources and a process which will enable the local church to look at stewardship in an intentional way.

2. Consult individually with each Conference to develop and implement a set of specific action plans tailored for that particular conference and to prepare a system of continuing evaluation at all levels of participation.

3. Make available personnel and other resources to conferences and congregations, seeking in each instance to provide, within the limits of available budget and staff time, the greatest possible flexibility in the development of printed and audio-visual materials.

4. Report to the Eleventh General Synod on the work done by conferences and by the Stewardship Council to achieve these objectives.

D. Instructs the business committee of this General Synod, in collaboration with the Stewardship Council, to prepare a special message from the General Synod addressed to the churches concerning support for the total mission, and to submit that proposed message for the consideration and action of this General Synod.

E. Urges the General Synod delegates to make themselves available to promote, interpret, and implement this stewardship proposal.

Appendix A

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSAL TO GENERAL SYNOD

To implement this proposal will require:

I. Before General Synod

A. Determination of a theme, logo, and/or slogan for the work to be done under this proposal.

B. Consideration and endorsement by the Stewardship Council and the Executive Council.

II. During General Synod

A. Blocks of time on the agenda for:

— A multi-media presentation of the proposal.

— Subsequent consideration by one of the divisions.

— Action by vote of the delegates.

— Approval of a special message to the churches, with one part addressed to all members and one part addressed to official board.

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B. Supportive materials using the theme and/or logo such as banners, buttons, tags, notebooks, delegate badges, conference place cards, worship bulletins, stage backdrop, etc.

C. Persons tending a display table to answer questions and speak with delegates and visitors.

III. After General Synod

A. Consultations between individual Conferences and the

Stewardship Council to develop plans for following through on General Synod's action on the proposal. (Some possible strategies for inviting and challenging members and congregations to move in planned stages toward the accomplishments of the giving guidelines are listed in Appendix B.)

B. A wide variety of activities which grow out of joint planning on the part of the conferences and the Stewardship Council. (One illustration of a possible schedule of activities is contained in Appendix C.)

Appendix B

SOME POSSIBLE STRATEGIES

Note: Here are several possible strategies for inviting and challenging members and congregations to move in planned stages toward the accomplishment of the giving guidelines. The use of any of these possibilities and the development of alternative or supplementary strategies will grow out of joint planning to be done by each Conference and the Stewardship Council.

For Members

- Give at least \$1 per week for every \$1,000 of annual income (about 5%).
- Give the traditional tithe—10% of income.
- Increase present giving by \$1 or \$2 per week.
- Add 10% of every salary or wage increase to present giving.
- Give an additional 1% of income.
- Add to present giving the amount saved by eating one subsistence meal per week so the church can do more to help hungry people.
- Forego the purchase of one outfit of clothing, one night

on the town, or one day of vacation and add the amount that would have been spent to present giving.

- Provide complete financial support for all the work included in OCWM Basic Support for one or more minutes at the rate of \$36 per minute.
- Make or revise a will to provide a special bequest, or plan for some other form of deferred giving.

For Congregations

- Increase the contribution for OCWM Basic Support by \$2 per member per year.
- Make a special approach to selected individuals and family foundations.
- Adopt a Basic Support goal of \$15 per member per year.
- Engage in a wills emphasis program and offer other opportunities for deferred giving to the church.
- Provide complete financial support for all the work included in OCWM Basic Support for a number of minutes at the rate of \$36 per minute.

Appendix C

ONE POSSIBLE SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

(For conferences participating during 1976)

<i>When</i>	<i>What</i>	<i>How</i>
Sept. 1974 through June, 1975	Consideration of proposal	Presentation, discussion and action at meetings of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Program Committee of General Synod — Executive Council — Cabinet of the Council of Conference Executives — Council of Conference Executives — Stewardship Council — Conferences.
Spring 1975	Consideration of proposal	Presentation at orientation sessions for General Synod delegates.
June 27 - July 1, 1975	Action on proposal by General Synod	As detailed above in Appendix A.
July - Nov. 1975	Recruitment of people to meet with official boards of congregations	Conferences challenge General Synod delegates, members of conference board of directors, and others to be visitors.
August, 1975	Communication to the congregations	Mailing of special message from the General Synod to the congregations.
Sept. 7 & 14, 1975	Challenge to the congregations	Reading during the worship service of that part of the special message from General Synod addressed to the members.

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<i>When</i>	<i>What</i>	<i>How</i>
Sept. 1975	Challenge to the official boards of congregations	Reading at the regular meeting of the official board of the special message from the General Synod including the part addressed particularly to the official board.
Fall 1975	Report to Association meetings	Delegates to General Synod report to fall meetings of associations, emphasizing the proposal.
Sept. - Oct. 1975	Getting pastors on board	Conference leaders use various occasions to enlist the support of the pastors for the efforts to be made under this proposal.
Nov. 1975 through Jan. 1976	Scheduling meetings with official boards of congregations	Conferences use personal contact, phone, mail to schedule meetings of visitors with official boards.
Jan. 1976	Training visitors	Training session(s) for visitors conducted by conference and Stewardship Council leaders.
By Feb. 1, 1976	Report of an accepted Basic Support goal	Congregation informs the conference of its accepted Basic Support goal by returning a form provided by the conference.
Feb. 1 - March 14, 1976	Meetings with official boards of congregations	Visitors that have been trained attend a regular meeting of the official board to discuss the proposal and urge concerted efforts to increase support for the total mission.
Feb. 14 - March 28, 1976	Christian Enlistment Workshops	Workshops conducted by conference and Stewardship Council leaders, explaining the Christian Enlistment process and emphasizing Phases 1, 2, and 3.
March - Nov. 1976	Christian Enlistment	Local church leaders conduct the Christian Enlistment process in their congregations.
April - Oct. 1976	Deciding on a conference commitment for National Basic Support	Conference annual meeting (or the board of directors) establishes this commitment in light of accepted congregational goals.
Sept. 1976	Christian Enlistment Workshops	Workshop conducted by conference and Stewardship Council leaders, emphasizing Phases 4 and 5.
Oct. 1976 through Jan. 1977	Pulpit exchange or special guest message	Pastor or lay person from another church will present a message emphasizing 1) the importance of the church's mission in today's world and 2) the challenge of \$1 per week for every \$1,000 of annual income or some other challenge determined in joint planning by the conference and the Stewardship Council.
By Feb. 1, 1977	Report on accepted Basic Support goals	Congregation informs the conference of its accepted Basic Support goal by returning a form provided by the conference.
April - Oct. 1977	Establish conference commitment for National Basic Support	Conference annual meeting (or the board of directors) establishes this commitment in light of accepted congregational goals.

10. SUPPORT OF OUR CLOSELY RELATED SEMINARIES

The Moderator recognized Mr. Bredeweg. On behalf of the business committee Mr. Bredeweg moved the adoption of the resolution introduced as new business on "Support of Our Closely Related Seminaries." Mrs. Barnes was recognized and moved an alternate proposal on "Support of Our Closely Related Seminaries." The motion was seconded and there was discussion.

The Moderator recognized Brad S. Lutz (PSE) who moved to amend the motion to change the second paragraph in the resolved section by inserting the words: "The Tenth General Synod requests the Office for Church Life and Leadership with the Conferences and Seminaries to develop a functioning program of regional support for the closely related seminaries during the next biennium for report to the

Eleventh General Synod." The motion was seconded. Upon being put to a vote, the motion was lost.

The Moderator recognized James A. Christopher (NY) who moved to amend the motion by adding to the first paragraph in the resolved section the words: "and encourages the seminaries to become more aware of the needs related to theological training of persons for service in the Conferences and local churches." The motion was seconded. Upon being put to a vote, the motion was adopted.

The Moderator recognized Arthur C. Weil (CT) who moved to amend the motion by the addition of the statement: "The Tenth General Synod grants \$10,000 per year to each of the seminaries related to the Council for Higher Education." The Moderator ruled the motion out of order since it fails to meet the provision of Standing Rule #15 which states that any motion which includes designation of