

**7. NATIVE AMERICAN TREATY RIGHTS**

The Moderator recognized Mr. Bredeweg. On behalf of the business committee Mr. Bredeweg moved the adoption of the Overture from the Minnesota Conference on Native American Treaty Rights. Ms. Henderson was recognized and moved to amend the motion to adopt an alternative resolution. The motion was seconded. Ms. Henderson stated that the alternative resolution was very similar to the original and differed only in the first and last paragraphs.

The Moderator recognized Colleen Shores (MN) who moved to amend the motion to delete the word "funding" in the last resolved paragraph and insert the sum of \$100,000." 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 funding must first be cleared with the Finance and Budget Committee.

The Moderator recognized David Bodgley (ND) who moved to amend the motion by substituting a new statement in the fourth resolved paragraph: "Be it further resolved that the Tenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ, through the Council for American Indian Ministries and the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries and other appropriate agencies provide substantial appropriate assistance to tribal councils, reservation business committees, or other recognized tribal governing bodies seeking to obtain their treaty rights through legal action." The motion was seconded. Upon being put to a vote, the motion was lost.

There was further discussion, and it was

75-GS-38 VOTED: The General Synod adopts the alternate resolution "Concerning Native American Indian Treaty Rights:"

**RESOLUTION CONCERNING NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN TREATY RIGHTS**

WHEREAS the evident injustice to native Americans as its primary roots in the abrogation of their basic economic property and civil rights, some of which are historically guaranteed by a variety of treaties with the U.S. Government, and

WHEREAS the government has a history of ignoring and breaking treaties made between itself and the various Indian tribes, and

WHEREAS various tribes of Indian people are now asking that the federal government, state governments, and other political sub-divisions recognize the peculiar historical status and rights which are theirs by virtue of these treaties, and

WHEREAS inherent in the Christian faith is the affirmation of human dignity, equal justice, and personal freedom under God, and

WHEREAS the realization of such rights is often frustrated by the degrading conditions in which most Indian people are obliged to live because of the economic injustices caused by broken and unjust treaties, and

WHEREAS many tribal groups have experienced continuing problems in effecting said treaty rights in regard to water rights, hunting and fishing rights on reservations and other federal trust lands, as well as the right of self-determination and self-government, along with other inherent rights,

THEREFORE the Tenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon the federal government and all state and local governments, to recognize rights guaranteed

to Indian tribes in the several treaties made between the United States Government and the tribes, as well as those inherent rights not specifically taken from them by said treaties; the Tenth General Synod asks the Council for American Indian Ministries, the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries and other agencies of the church to seek the repeal of those laws which were passed by the Congress subsequent to the signing of treaties which have reduced the sovereignty of Indian tribes on their own reservations; the Tenth General Synod requests the various agencies, churches, and members of the United Church of Christ to use their good offices in an effort to assist Indian people in attaining their rights under the treaties, and to use their influence in helping to avoid disruptive incidents in connection with the exercise of Indian treaty rights; the Tenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ suggests, through the Council for American Indian Ministries, the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries and other appropriate agencies that substantial assistance be provided, including funding, to tribal councils and reservation business committees, or other recognized tribal governing bodies seeking to obtain their treaty rights through legal action. It is to be understood that these funds will in no way decrease the present budget of the Council for American Indian Ministries; and the Tenth General Synod through the Executive Council encourages the additional financial participation of Conferences, other denominations and confessions, foundations and interested persons in this endeavor.

**8. RESOLUTION ON THE WILMINGTON TEN**

The Moderator recognized Mr. Bredeweg. On behalf of the business committee Mr. Bredeweg moved the adoption of the "Resolution on the Wilmington Ten" introduced as new business. Ms. Henderson was recognized and moved to amend the motion to adopt an alternative resolution. The motion was seconded. Ms. Henderson indicated the differences in the original and the alternative resolution.

The Moderator recognized President Moss who offered three subsequent motions that were seconded to 1) delete the seventh "whereas" paragraph, 2) delete in the first resolve paragraph the phrase "and calls upon the United States Supreme Court to review arguments calling for a new trial for the Wilmington ten," and 3) delete the second resolved paragraph. In each instance when put to a vote, the motions were adopted.

There was discussion, and it was

75-GS-39 VOTED: The General Synod adopts the alternative "Resolution on the Wilmington Ten" as amended:

**RESOLUTION ON THE WILMINGTON TEN**

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ has traditionally been a leader in the fight for equal and civil rights of all citizens, and

WHEREAS we believe that the Wilmington Ten have been convicted unjustly in North Carolina and their efforts to gain a fair trial have been supported by the United Church of Christ, and

WHEREAS the Reverend Benjamin Chavis, a staff member of the United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice, is one of the Wilmington Ten as a result of his efforts in behalf of the church to achieve equal justice for Black high school students in a racially torn Wilmington, N.C., school, and