

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

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WHEREAS the United Church of Christ demonstrated its concern and support for a new trial by posting \$400,000 in bail to gain the release of the Wilmington Ten while their conviction is being appealed, and

WHEREAS we believe that the North Carolina Court of Appeals has failed to consider adequately the merits of the appeal and the North Carolina Supreme Court has refused to review the case, and

WHEREAS substantial constitutional issues are raised by the appeal that will have significant impact upon guarantees that all citizens are entitled to a fair and impartial jury, a fair trial and the right to confront their accusers,

THEREFORE the Tenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ affirms its support for the Wilmington Ten. The General Synod urges local congregations, Associations, and Conferences to request educational resources from national agencies in order that they may further understand this position of this Synod. The Tenth General Synod calls upon other denominations to join the United Church of Christ in supporting justice for the Wilmington Ten.

9. STATEMENT ON RACIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE

The Moderator recognized Mr. Bredeweg. On behalf of the business committee Mr. Bredeweg referred the delegates to Advance Materials, Section II, pp. 56-61 and moved the adoption of the background statement on "Racial and Economic Justice." Ms. Henderson was recognized and moved to amend the motion to adopt an alternative which would constitute a new statement for the original. There was a second to the motion.

Ms. Henderson indicated the differences in the original and the new statement. There was discussion and it was

75-GS-40 VOTED: The General Synod adopts the statement on "Racial and Economic Justice"

RACIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Jesus stood up and unrolled the scroll and found the place where it is written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; God has anointed me to preach the Good News to the poor, sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed, to announce the year when the Lord will save all people!" (Luke 4: 16-19 TEV) Our biblical heritage strongly affirms seeking justice, correcting oppression, healing the sick, feeding the hungry, loving our neighbor, and an emerging vision of the New Jerusalem where mourning, crying, and pain shall be no more.

Affirming our biblical heritage and the Lordship of Jesus Christ, the United Church of Christ is called to continue its involvement in the struggle for racial and economic justice.

WHEREAS the poor, the sick, the hungry, and the oppressed suffer deprivation of land, goods, services, income, and opportunity, and

WHEREAS according to national statistics a gap continues to grow between the wealthiest 20% and the rest of our population, and,

WHEREAS adequate health care is determined by one's ability to pay, which deprives many people from universal access to necessary health services, and

WHEREAS it has been estimated that 15 to 30 million persons suffer from hunger and malnutrition in our land, and

WHEREAS racism continues to exist in personal attitudes and institutional practices and policies,

THEREFORE the Tenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ re-affirms its enduring commitment to, and priority for, racial and economic justice, and the Tenth General Synod requests local churches, Associations, Conferences, and national agencies and instrumentalities to:

1. recognize the inextricable relationship between our personal life-styles and poverty, health care, domestic hunger, and racism;
2. respect individual worth and cultural diversity of all persons regardless of race, religion, nationality, ethnicity, age, sex;
3. adopt an affirmative action policy in hiring and promoting minority persons and women in professional and program staff positions;
4. invest staff and program resources in new, as well as traditional, urban church development and in urban community ministries; and

The Tenth General Synod directs the Executive Council to work with the appropriate agencies and instrumentalities to:

1. urge changes in national budget priorities through the Regional Citizen's Budget Hearings by providing them with factual and ethical testimony, and, through other appropriate ways, to reshape the national priorities to respond to human need;
2. strongly encourage a full employment economy;
3. address the need for just tax reform which recognizes the problem of inadequate income distribution;
4. work for a guaranteed adequate income consonant with the actions of the Ninth General Synod;
5. work for minority economic development;
6. encourage legislation that will insure adequate nutrition to each American through a humane and equitable process; and

The Tenth General Synod directs the Executive Council to work with appropriate agencies and instrumentalities to:

1. provide staff and program resources to address the issues of quality education and accountability in public education;
2. work for the guarantee of quality health care for all Americans through improved health delivery systems and adequate national health insurance.

This concluded the report of Division E.

The Moderator recognized Chaplain James O. Gilliom for the service of Worship. Mr. Gilliom called the General Synod to the Worship of God and introduced the Trinity Choral Ensemble of the Trinity United Church of Christ of Chicago, Illinois. The Director of the Ensemble is Jeffrey P. Radford. The Rev. Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr., is the minister of Trinity Church. Through the medium of song the Ensemble led the General Synod in worship.

10. AMENDMENT TO THE STANDING RULES

The Moderator recognized Malcolm Bertram (NY) who moved that the standing rules be amended to allow the Moderator the discretion of taking voice or standing votes on amendments to division proposals unless otherwise determined by the General Synod. The motion was seconded and upon being put to a vote, the motion was adopted.