

within the military, serving as advocates of justice and the cause of those who need special ministries, such as young enlisted personnel, minorities, offenders, and those imprisoned.

5. Requests the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries in its responsibility for youth and young adults, to enable ministries of the Church which advocate the welfare and rights of the young who face military service, now serve, or have become veterans, to the end that their full civil and religious rights are protected and their right to justice is honored by the government.

6. Petitions the Fifth Assembly of the World Council of Churches to commission an ecumenical study project which will follow-up their report on violence, by considering the issues of war and particularly the international law of war, in the light of the imperatives of the Gospel, which commit the Church to seek the establishment of justice and peace.

7. Gratefully acknowledges the work of the Task Force and discharges it with thanks.

**4. CALIFORNIA NORTHERN CONFERENCE OVERTURE CONCERNING THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF GAY AND BISEXUAL PERSONS IN THE PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

The Moderator recognized Mr. Bredeweg. On behalf of the business committee Mr. Bredeweg referred the delegates to Advance Materials, Section II, p. 228, and moved the adoption of the California Northern Overture concerning the Special Needs of Gay and Bisexual Persons. The motion was seconded. Mr. Skinner was recognized and moved an alternative proposal to the Overture in two parts. Both parts of the statement, upon being put to a vote, were adopted. It was

75-GS-65 VOTED: The General Synods adopts the statement on a Response to the Overture of the California, Northern Conference Concerning the Special Needs of Gay and Bisexual Persons in the Professional Leadership of the Church:

- A. The United Church of Christ has a priority commitment to strengthening the local church. Wherever personal suffering must be silently endured without benefit of pastoral care of empathic support, especially when the suffering occurs in the lives of the professional leadership of the church, the local church, and the church at every level, is weakened.

Insofar as social, legal and religious condemnation of homosexuality has inflicted immeasurable emotional, psychological and at times physical suffering upon the lives of homosexual and bisexual persons and their families, the church has a responsibility to respond to the special needs of such persons. Of immediate concern are the needs of homosexual and bisexual ministers, directors of religious education, and others in the professional leadership of the United Church of Christ.

Therefore, the Tenth General Synod responds to the special needs of homosexual and bisexual Ministers, directors of religious education and others in the professional leadership of the United Church of Christ by requesting the Office for Church Life and Leadership to:

1. Compile and distribute a nation-wide listing of both church and non-church related counseling resources that offer non-judgmental counseling for homosexual and bisexual persons and their families.
2. Compile and distribute an annually updated listing of vocational guidance and counseling agencies with experience in counseling homosexual and bisexual professionals.
3. Distribute a comprehensive bibliography of books, articles and audio-visual aids concerning human sexuality.

- B. The United Church of Christ has not faced in depth the issue of human sexuality. Changing morality and ethics within American society present both problems and challenges to the church.

Therefore, the Tenth General Synod requests the Executive Council to commission a study concerning the dynamics of human sexuality and the theological basis for a Christian ethic concerning human sexuality, and to recommend postures for the church, to be presented to the Eleventh General Synod.

**5. REPORT OF THE OFFICE FOR CHURCH LIFE AND LEADERSHIP ON MINISTRIES TO MILITARY PERSONNEL**

The Moderator recognized Mr. Bredeweg. On behalf of the business committee Mr. Bredeweg referred the delegates to Advance Materials, Section II, pp. 204-206, and moved the adoption of the recommendations of the report of the Office for Church Life and Leadership on Ministries to Military Personnel. The motion was seconded. Mr. Skinner was recognized and moved to amend the recommendations for action of the Office for Church Life and Leadership on Ministries to Military Personnel and explained that consideration was also given to the Overture from the Central Atlantic Conference on Support to United Church of Christ Chaplains. The motion was seconded.

It was

75-GS-66 VOTED: The General Synod adopts as amended the recommendations from the Office for Church Life and Leadership on Military Personnel:

1. The Tenth General Synod receives the report by the Chaplains on Ministries to Military Personnel.
2. The Tenth General Synod seeking a stronger procedure for ecclesiastical endorsement (certification) of our military chaplains, approves in principle the Common Covenant, as outlined in the Chaplains' revised report as descriptive of the covenantal relationship between the United Church of Christ and its ministers representing the denomination in the military services.
3. The Tenth General Synod reaffirms these ministries of the United Church of Christ to military personnel, and urges the exploration and implementation of alternate models of the Church's ministry to those in the military service.
4. The Tenth General Synod reaffirms the military chaplaincy as a principal model of ministry to military personnel.
5. The Tenth General Synod refers the reports and these actions to the Office for Church Life and Leadership for opportune development, proper consultation with advisory committees, adequate funding, and appropriate implementation, in collaboration with other instrumen-