

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 1

3. Assisting local congregations in assessing program options including the Joint Education Development "Shared Approaches";
4. Developing resources to enhance the understanding of membership in the United Church of Christ;
5. Strengthening and enhancing the outdoor educational ministry throughout the United Church of Christ;
6. Developing resources and programs for family life education which take into account diverse family life situations, and the needs of increasing number of single persons in the local church;
7. Assessing personnel needs in regard to Christian Education.

34. RESOLUTION ON VOLUNTARY PRAYER

The Moderator recognized Dr. Washburn. On behalf of the business committee, Dr. Washburn moved the adoption of the Resolution on Voluntary Prayer submitted as new business. The motion was seconded. Mrs. Breiting was recognized and moved to amend the motion that inasmuch as this resolution was given no elucidation or support in the Division and small group by its proponents, the resolution not be affirmed.

"RESOLUTION ON VOLUNTARY PRAYER

"WHEREAS the founding principles of the United States of America were largely influenced by Greco-Roman concepts of law and the Judeo-Christian faith; and

"WHEREAS the founding fathers of the United States believed that the Republic they were establishing was to be supported by religion, education and government of the people and by the people and for the people; and

"WHEREAS the founders of the Republic separated church and state—nevertheless they recognized the Creator as the source of their inalienable rights; and

"WHEREAS recent decisions of the United States Supreme Court create confusion among Public School Boards in which some interpret the decisions of the Court as discriminating against any form of prayer in the public schools while others interpret the decisions of the Court as permitting those prayers not written by employees of the public schools; and

"WHEREAS inconsistency exists in the use or non-use of prayer in government agencies—the Supreme Court, the House of Representatives and the Senate initiating their sessions with prayer—although a classroom of public school children and teachers may not celebrate the same privilege;

"THEREFORE, be it resolved that this confusion and inconsistency be cleared by adding an amendment to the Constitution of the United States stating that nothing contained in this Constitution shall prohibit the several States and the District constituting the seat of government of the United States from providing for voluntary prayer in the public schools of that jurisdiction, nor shall it abridge the right of persons lawfully assembled in any public hearing to participate in voluntary prayer."

The motion was seconded. There was discussion.

It was

75-GS-93 VOTED: The General Synod adopts the recommendation that the Resolution on Voluntary Prayer not be affirmed.

This concluded the report of Division A.

35. CONTINUATION OF THE REPORT OF DIVISION F, "THE CHURCH AND WORLD ISSUES—RESOLUTION ON RELATIONS WITH INDO-CHINA"

The Moderator recognized Dr. Washburn. On behalf of the business committee, Dr. Washburn moved the adoption of the Resolution on Relations with Indo-China in the Post-War Period submitted by the Michigan Conference. The motion was seconded. Mrs. Janice White, chairperson of the Division, was recognized and moved to amend the motion to adopt an alternative resolution on Relations with Indo-China in the Post-War Period. The motion was seconded.

It was

75-GS-94 VOTED: The General Synod adopts the alternative resolution on Relations with Indo-China in the Post-War Period:

RELATIONS WITH INDO-CHINA IN THE POST-WAR PERIOD

WHEREAS the Church has been called to be one of God's instruments of reconciliation and healing and;

WHEREAS the General Synod of the United Church of Christ and its national Instrumentalities and Conferences have striven throughout the Indo-China War for a negotiated, just and durable peace throughout South East Asia;

WHEREAS the immense sufferings and needs of the several peoples of Indo-China call for the sympathetic assistance of people of good will everywhere;

WHEREAS the political authorities in Vietnam and Laos have publicly stated that they are willing to accept international humanitarian and economic aid, and those in power in Cambodia may at some point adopt a similar position;

WHEREAS many members of the United Church of Christ, in common with other United States citizens, have desired peace and justice in Indo-China and now wish to respond generously to the requests for rehabilitation, reconstruction and economic help which Indo-Chinese political leaders and private groups have made;

WHEREAS the present policy of our government prevents the Church, the Board for World Ministries and individuals from being about the ministry of reconciliation and healing in Indo-China;

The General Synod calls upon members, churches, Associations, Conferences and national Instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ to communicate to the President of the United States and the Congress that the United States policy toward the several governments now in power in Indo-China be one of consistent good-will, i.e., removing them from the "Trading with the Enemy Act" interdictions, channeling humanitarian aid to Indo-China through United Nations agencies such as UNICEF, eliminating passport restrictions on the travel of U.S. citizens in Indo-China; and offering aid for reconstruction and rehabilitation; and urges the people and organizations of the United Church of Christ to intensify their Christ-given ministry of healing and reconciliation by:

- a) responding eagerly to the appeal by the World Council of Churches and Church World Service for contributions to the Ecumenical Fund for Reconstruction and Reconciliation in Indo-China;
- b) communicating through the United Church Board for World Ministries to religious communities in

Indo-China, the deep desire of many Christians in our country to continue spiritual and cultural interchange, in the service of justice and peace and preparing United Church of Christ members for such interchange by use of *The Understanding Indo-China* packet of study materials on the history and culture of Indo-China, developed by the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries;

- c) sponsoring and welcoming at least 500 Indo-Chinese families or individuals who want to settle in the United States (using the facilities of the Service Division, Board for World Ministries, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, N.Y.) and recommending to the United States Government that it facilitate the repatriation and travel of any who now prefer to return to Indo-China or migrate elsewhere.

36. NEW YORK CONFERENCE OVERTURE ON THE BICENTENNIAL WITH AN AFFIRMATION OF HUMAN INTERDEPENDENCE

The Moderator recognized Dr. Washburn. On behalf of the business committee, Dr. Washburn moved the adoption of the Overture from the New York Conference with an Affirmation of Human Interdependence. The motion was seconded. Mrs. White was recognized and moved to amend the motion to adopt an alternative statement to the Overture on the Bicentennial. The motion was seconded.

The Moderator recognized Holly Henderson (NY) who moved to amend the alternative statement to the Overture on the Bicentennial by deleting the phrase at the end of the third paragraph in the second resolve section "upon and beyond its boundaries" and substitute the phrase "while recognizing that we have sometimes failed to understand the implications for others of our own life style." The motion was seconded. Upon being put to a vote, the motion was lost by a standing vote 225 - YES: 289 - NO.

The Moderator recognized Holly Henderson (NY) who moved to amend the alternative statement to the Overture on the Bicentennial by adding two paragraphs to the resolved section, "assist those who seek starting points from which to begin to deal with global issues facing us today;" and "encourage growth through understanding of our religious and national heritages and how they relate to our interdependence in the world." The motion was seconded. Upon being put to a vote, the motion was adopted.

It was

75-GS-95 VOTED: The General Synod adopts as amended the alternative statement on the Bicentennial with an Affirmation of Human Interdependence:

OVERTURE ON THE BICENTENNIAL WITH AN AFFIRMATION OF HUMAN INTERDEPENDENCE

WHEREAS the Bicentennial raises the question of the relationship of our Judeo-Christian faith tradition to our National heritage;

WHEREAS the commonality of our National and religious heritages expresses the understanding that both freedom and liberation are prerequisites to the fullness of life;

WHEREAS in the Judeo-Christian heritage this has meaning in our relationships to God, and to each other;

WHEREAS our ultimate goal is the common recognition that we are one people under God on this planet—a global community while also celebrating our unique qualities as people and as nations;

WHEREAS we believe that our Bicentennial emphasis should relate to concerns arising from global interdependence, rather than to those of an essentially nationalistic character;

The 10th General Synod of the United Church of Christ endorses the "Preamble to" and "Affirmation of Human Interdependence," drafted by the New York Conference, and recommends these statements for study and use by individual members, local churches, Associations, Conferences, agencies, and Instrumentalities of the U.C.C. as appropriate tools for understandings and actions growing out of our Nation's Bicentennial Celebration.

The Tenth General Synod requests the President of the Church to convene an inter-instrumentality working group to develop and implement tools which will:

identify, lift up and celebrate the contributions our religious forebears made to this nation in the years before its birth, as they sought, found and struggled to be worthy of the freedom to worship God;

identify, lift up and celebrate the lives of those spiritual pioneers who labored in the early days of this nation, seeking in their imperfect ways to minister to those who poured into this young nation, and to those beyond its boundaries;

identify, lift up and celebrate the contributions this nation has made and is making for the good of countless people upon and beyond its boundaries;

identify, lift up and celebrate the growing consciousness of human interdependence and sense of global community;

identify, lift up and repent our national failure to sustain personal and corporate integrity toward those moral ideals, however imperfect, envisioned at our founding—together with the failure of Christians to sustain discipleship in defining social issues and participating in those groupings of political and economic power which are extensions of individual responsibility, recognizing, including, and expanding the work of the existing United Church of Christ Bicentennial Coordinating Committee; assist those who seek starting points from which to begin to deal with global issues facing us today; and

encourage growth through understanding of our religious and national heritages and how they relate to our interdependence in the world.

The working group will evaluate and report the results of its work to the Eleventh General Synod.

A PREAMBLE TO THE AFFIRMATION OF HUMAN INTERDEPENDENCE

In this period as the United States of America observes the 200th Anniversary of its birth as a nation, we, as Americans and members of the United Church of Christ, face decisions as critical and significant in our time as those which faced the country's founding fathers in 1776. Today these problems know no boundaries made by people or governments; they are part of a great universal crisis which if not confronted and checked now threaten within the foreseeable future to overwhelm and destruct civilization. Famine, flood, pestilence, pollution, prejudice and deadly weapons of war lead down the road to human disaster unless we counter them with resources that are yet available at our command and care.

As people of the biblical faith tradition, we cannot but lend our strength and devotion to a great crusade against the