

of a 10:15 p.m. reception for him following closure of this plenary session.

Assistant Moderator Bryant observed we had heard a sobering speech, and suggested a five minute break would give delegates time to reflect on what they had just heard.

3. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, AMENDMENTS TO THE UCC CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Assistant Moderator Bryant recognized Helen I. Barnhill, Executive Council Chairperson, for this report. Ms. Barnhill alluded to the total composition of the Council, and commended them for their contributions to the General Synod.

Chairperson Barnhill invited James H. Lightbourne, Jr., Chairperson of the Executive Council's Committee on Structural Planning, to help facilitate the discussion.

4. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OFFICE FOR CHURCH LIFE AND LEADERSHIP AS A PERMANENT AGENCY OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

During the developmental phase of the Office for Church Life and Leadership, periodic reports had been submitted to the Executive Council through this sub-committee.

The Ninth General Synod (VOTE 73-GS-34) created the Office for Church Life and Leadership "to combine in one nationwide office the policy-making, operational, and administrative function for leadership development in the United Church of Christ." That Synod stipulated that a Board of Directors elected by the Executive Council shape operations and policies of this agency during the biennia; with the Office making a final report of this developmental phase at this Eleventh General Synod, which would vote on future structural design. Ms. Barnhill moved, it was seconded, and after some discussion it was

77-GS-14 VOTED: 1. The Eleventh General Synod amends Paragraph 62 (b) of the Constitution of the United Church of Christ to read: "b) development of ordained and lay leadership, *with the name Office for Church Life and Leadership.*"

77-GS-15 VOTED: 2. The General Synod amends the By-Laws of the United Church of Christ by insertion of a caption and new paragraphs under Established Instrumentalities, to read as follows:

"The Office for Church Life and Leadership shall be an advocate and agent for leadership in the United Church of Christ, characterized by a commitment to a vision of the Church as an instrument of God in the continuing work of creation and reconciliation in the world. The Office, recognizing the pluralistic nature of the United Church of Christ, shall give impetus and direction to the ongoing development and support of lay and professional leaders whose purpose is to strengthen the life of the whole people of God in mission and ministry. It shall work collaboratively with Conferences, Associations, and national agencies in the development of programs which are responsive to their leadership development needs and especially to those of local churches.

"The Office for Church Life and Leadership shall also seek to: initiate theological inquiry about the issues of faith that the witness of the local congregations be enhanced; work with laity, clergy, that the vitality of worship, Christian nurture, and spiritual development be encouraged throughout the Church; provide strong leadership development among the laity for their effective participation in church and society; care for personal and professional growth of persons engaged in the practice of ministry; facilitate a system of placement that is responsive to the needs of the local church and sensitive to the gifts of the clergy; and collaborate with the Seminaries, Conferences, and Instrumentalities, in addressing questions which are important to the integrity and purpose of the Church.

"The Office for Church Life and Leadership shall be governed by a directorate of twenty-four persons, nominated by the Nominating Committee, and elected by the General Synod, all of them for terms of six years, one-third to be elected each biennium to serve until their respective successors are elected and qualified. Membership of the directorate is to be distributed equally among ministers, laymen, and laywomen of the United Church of Christ. Vacancies where terms of service have not been completed shall be filled through election by the directorate for the unexpired terms, subject to the approval of the Executive Council."

5. CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Ms. Barnhill moved the adoption of the recommendation of the Executive Council to clarify the term of membership on the Credentials Committee, By-law 184 of the United Church of Christ. The motion was seconded, there was no discussion and it was

77-GS-16 VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod amends By-law 184 of the United Church of Christ to read: "The Credentials Committee shall consist of ten delegates to the General Synod, five of whom shall come from each of the two classes of General Synod delegates. At least three months before each regular meeting of the General Synod the Executive Council shall appoint five members from the latest class of delegates and shall designate one of the ten members of the committee as chairperson. Term of members shall be for four years, beginning with their appointment and terminating with the appointment of their successors.

6. OFFICE OF COMMUNICATION

The Directorate of the Office of Communication consists of eighteen members. One member shall be the President of the Church. Six members are nominated by the Executive Council, the United Church Board for World Ministries and the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, each of which offer two nominees. The remaining eleven, approximately one-third each biennium, are nominated by the General Synod Nominating Committee. All are elected by the General Synod. In order to clarify the term of the six nominees of the agencies Ms. Barnhill moved the adoption of the recommendation of the Executive Council to amend Paragraph 221 of the By-laws of the