

## SUNDAY EVENING, JULY 3

posal would rest with the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, which would be aided by an Advisory Committee composed of experts in the field of the Aged, representatives from key Conference Task Forces and selected staff from instrumentalities prepared to address the Aged issue. Staff work should be reported and reviewed by the Advisory Committee. Regular progress reports should be made to the Executive Council and the 12th General Synod.

### VII. THE VOTE

We, as members of the United Church of Christ gathered at this General Synod, do hereby accept this study and declare ourselves committed to initiating and continuing a ministry *with* and *to* the elderly age 60 and over, on a national, Conference, Association and local church level.

Our investigation and study has convinced us that the UCC has the capacity to conduct the following ministries in relation to the aged, none of which will duplicate current programs of excellence that are being conducted by other organizations.

A. A continuing education program for U.C.C. minister/laity to help teach how to minister with and to the aged. It may be conducted by the Council for Health and Welfare Services, United Church of Christ agencies serving the aged through funded workshops and seminars. It may be conducted at or by a seminary working cooperatively with expertise from Council for Health and Welfare Services agencies serving the aged utilizing the resources of a graduate study institution that is qualified to teach the necessary theory and techniques and the agencies who are qualified to give practical impetus to the teaching.

B. Organization of an experimental ministry to the isolated elderly who live in urban centers and rural areas. Ministry will be an interdenominational effort and will involve consultation with the Council for Health and Welfare Services, other public and private agencies and United Church of Christ agencies serving the aged, church related visitation, counselling, recreation and monitoring of health and home care, and study of housing and transportation problems. Experimentation is contemplated in six geographical areas over a three year span.

C. A program to combat the negative images of the aged and discrimination against the aged in mass communication media. Coalitions will be organized throughout the USA to press for positive media service to the aged. They will be aided by advice and legal counsel from UCC field staff and the Council for Health and Welfare Services, United Church of Christ. A three-year effort is contemplated.

We recommend the responsibility for the foregoing projects and other programs to be developed with and for the aged be lodged in the UCBHM, with the understanding that the UCBHM will work cooperatively with the aid of the Council for Health and Welfare Services, United Church of Christ, other appropriate national instrumentalities and Conferences, Conference staffs, Associations and local churches.

"An interim in-progress report will be made to the 12th General Synod of the United Church of Christ and a

evaluative report will be made to the 13th General Synod with recommendation for continuance."

### 4. THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN RURAL AMERICA

Mr. Thomas noted the source of this resolution was A Proposed Pronouncement on "The Quality Of Life In Rural America," from the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference. He moved for adoption of the resolution in the Division B Report as a substitution for the original Pronouncement.

The motion was seconded, and Mr. Thomas explained the substitute as a clarification and condensation of the Kansas-Oklahoma pronouncement. Another difference was the assignment of primary oversight to the Office for Church in Society and the Board for Homeland Ministries.

Assistant Moderator Mistlin reiterated the process for deliberation of the proposal; attention would first be addressed to the "RESOLVED" clauses, then the "WHEREAS" clauses, and finally the main motion, adoption of the resolution as a whole.

Robert Alpers, Kansas-Oklahoma, moved that the amendment be changed by deletion of paragraphs 7 and 8 with a new wording. The motion was seconded, and Mr. Alpers offered his amendment as coming from the rural caucus, differing from the Division B Report only in being sharper about the work to be accomplished, and the responsibility for the pronouncement at the Twelfth General Synod.

Joyce Harmon, Chairperson, Office for Church in Society, supported the amendment. It made the mandate to that agency clearer; focused on the important issue of bridging the gap between rural and urban America by means of a dialogue; and identified public policy issues all governmental levels to which the church should pay special attention.

Davida Crabtree, Business Committee, asked for financial implications of the amendment. Mr. Alpers deferred to Garry Oniki, Executive Director, OCIS. He advised that the Kansas-Oklahoma people had been aware of the need for creation of a new task force to implement tasks stipulated in the amendment, and cited a cost of \$34,000.

William Yungolas, Iowa, reported three Division B votes against their proposal, as Iowa had wanted to make an exact change in it before its submission to the total Division. He supported the amendment as catching up the concerns of the Iowa people. Debate was closed, and it was

77-GS-22a VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod amends Division B Report, The "Quality of Life in Rural America," by deletion of paragraphs 7 and 8, beginning "RESOLVED" and "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED" and substitution of the following text:

"RESOLVED that the Eleventh General Synod requests that the Office for Church in Society plan and implement a process which will produce a Pronouncement for General Synod 12 on the "Quality of Life in Rural America,"

that the process include an Advisory Committee to be appointed by the Office for Church in Society and made up of Instrumentality, agency, Conference and local church people who share a concern for the life of rural Americans,

that it include a rural/urban dialogue which seeks to

clarify the connections among the factors which shape the issues in both sectors of American life,

that public policy issues be identified at local, state, regional and federal levels on which the U.C.C. should pay special attention,

and that, during the course of this process, special efforts be made by all levels of the church to develop programs which contribute to the "Quality of Life in Rural America."

There being no discussion on the "WHEREAS" clauses, the Assistant Moderator directed attention to the main motion, it was

77-GS-22 VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod adopts Division B Report the "Quality of Life in Rural America," as amended.

#### **The Quality of Life in Rural America**

WHEREAS this General Synod celebrates the contribution of rural people in shaping American culture;

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ seeks to support persons living in rural areas and communities and to enhance and maintain the quality of life;

WHEREAS rural dwellers face the challenge of maintaining a way of life that is shaped by a low population density and a society which values "bigness";

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ in its "Call to Christian Action" approved by the Second General Synod urges "policies that safeguard the well-being of the farmer and the farm family as well as the interests of the general public in the efficient production of abundant food and fiber";

WHEREAS the concern for the quality of life in rural America has been brought to the attention of the Eleventh General Synod as worthy of consideration and action as a pronouncement;

WHEREAS the issues of health care, social services, empowerment, job opportunities, community development, and justice in agricultural economics have been identified by United Church of Christ members in rural communities as special concerns; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Eleventh General Synod request that the Office for Church in Society plan and implement a process which will produce a Pronouncement for General Synod Twelve on the "Quality of Life in Rural America,"

that the process include an Advisory Committee to be appointed by the Office for Church in Society and made up of Instrumentality, Agency, Conference and local church people who share a concern for the life of rural Americans,

that it include a rural/urban dialogue which seeks to clarify the connections among the factors which shape the issues in both sectors of American life,

that public policy issues be identified at local, state, regional and federal levels on which the U.C.C. should pay special attention,

and that, during the course of this process, special efforts be made by all levels of the church to develop programs which contribute to the "Quality of Life in Rural America."

#### **5. HEALTH CARE IN BLACK COMMUNITIES**

Franklin Thomas referred to Advance Materials II, pp. 131-134, *Resolution: Health Care in Black Communities*, jointly sponsored by United Black Christians, Ministers for Racial and Social Justice, National Black Staff; and recommended by the Executive Council. Mr. Thomas moved for adoption of the resolution, it was seconded, and he explained the resolution before the body as a condensation and clarification of the original in Advance Materials II. (Resolution is printed in Tuesday afternoon.)

Ms. Gilbert, Business Committee, found differences in the two proposals, centering around "comprehensive and analytical study," in the Division B version. She felt this would take the issue out of the realm of the church, calling for a sophisticated approach regarding analytical study, raising financial implications.

Mr. Myers, Finance and Budget Committee Chairperson, asked for an estimate of the dollar amount needed to implement the proposal.

Discussion between the President and the Executive Council Chairperson clarified the need for a specific financial statement for the proposal. Mr. Thomas offered that Division B assumed the submitters had been aware of financial impact, and the Executive Council had been one of those submitters.

Assistant Moderator Mistlin reported the Finance and Budget Committee Chairperson had suggested a \$100,000 figure for the proposal.

Mr. Thomas moved for tabling action on the proposal. It was seconded, and it was

77-GS-23 VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod tables the resolution, "Health Care in Black Communities," for resubmission with specific information as to funding implications.

#### **6. RESOLUTION ON NATIONAL HEALTH CARE**

Mr. Thomas directed attention to exhibit 4 of the Division B Report and moved for its adoption. This motion was seconded and Mr. Thomas explained the mandate for the resolution as coming from the Tenth Synod. Background papers were a "Resolution on National Health Care for the Eleventh General Synod," Council for Health and Welfare Services; and two resolutions identical in title to the Division B Report, one from Wisconsin Conference, the other Health and Welfare Services.

The discussion, all affirmative, centered on minor points of clarification, and it was

77-GS-24 VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod adopts the resolution on "National Health Care."

#### **Resolution on National Health Care**

WHEREAS a resolution was approved by the Council for Health & Welfare Services of the United Church of Christ in its Annual Meeting held on March 7, 1977, and the Directors of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries on April 24-26, 1977, and was approved by a similar resolution of the Wisconsin Conference under the date of June 21, 1977;

WHEREAS the Tenth General Synod (75-GS-52) approved a "Statement of Policy on National Health Care;"