

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;"

WHEREAS our nation's health and the health of all individuals reflect the combined efforts to provide such services as, but not limited to, health care, adequate housing, proper nutrition, environmental hazard controls, and public health measures;

WHEREAS financial, material, and human resources are limited, and one of the most difficult tasks facing the nation is the selection and support of an appropriate mix of available voluntary, private and public means for attaining, maintaining and financing an acceptable level of health care for all citizens;

WHEREAS health services should be available to all individuals and should be so organized as to be readily accessible to all; therefore be it

RESOLVED that this "Statement" (Action of the Tenth General Synod, p. 50-51 of Tenth General Synod Minutes) include the following additional provisions where distributed:

1. (3). "j. Provide eye and ear care and corrective devices."
2. (at the end of Section B — The Financing of Health Services after the words "organizations which do not.") "Guidelines for professional fees to be charged within a national health care program shall be established, shall be adequately supervised and shall be reviewed from time to time."

RESOLVED that the Eleventh General Synod of the United Church of Christ share the "Statement of Policy on National Health Care" as supplemental herein with the members of Congress and with the President of the United States and the Secretary of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

## 7. PROCESS FOR SELECTION OF PRIORITIES AT THE ELEVENTH GENERAL SYNOD

Referring to Exhibit #5 of the Division B Report, Mr. Thomas moved for its adoption. This was seconded, and he explained the resolution before the body as a revision of the process presented in Advance Materials II, pp. 23-24. The amended version referred priorities selection to the Business Committee, as the small group dealing with this issue felt inadequate to deal with the process. The major change was in Section E. 3, page 25 of Advance Materials II, in which the first three lines had been deleted.

The Eleventh General Synod adopts the following as its process for the selection of priorities:

- A. as in Advance Materials II, p. 23.
- B. as in Advance Materials II, p. 23.
- C. as in Advance Materials II, p. 23 Amend.
- D. Participation of General Synod Delegates in the Priorities Process.

The Eleventh General Synod instructs the Business Committee to develop a priority weighting process for implementation during this Eleventh General Synod.

If it is at all possible, the results of this weighting process will be presented to the Synod before its adjournment, July 5, 1977.

E. Criteria for Priorities Selection by the Executive Council.

Criteria for selecting priorities shall

1. be chosen from those issues of most concern to the General Synod as determined by the "weighting" process.
2. reflect the current response to General Synod Ten Priorities on the part of the Local Church, Associations, Conferences and national agencies including consideration of the "Priorities Advisory Commission Report," the "Progress Report on GS-10 Priorities" and other reports on the Priorities presented to the divisions at General Synod Eleven, as well as the original General Synod Ten actions.
3. mature and strengthen the institutional church and must involve that church in witness and mission to the world. (75-GS-28, Paragraph III, Section F.) Therefore, in selecting priorities following the Eleventh General Synod the Executive Council will consider both institutional concerns, *theological clarification of the faith*, and social justice issues, including both domestic and global awareness.

In discussion, Martin Gibbs, Connecticut, was concerned that the proposal as amended would give final determination of Synod priorities to the Executive Council. Kent Moseback, Michigan, asked for an explanation of the weighting process to be used regarding priorities.

Assistant Moderator Mistlin acknowledged Kay Randels, Chairperson of the Planning and Correlation Committee. She explained the weighting process as a refinement of the one used at the last Synod, where delegates merely voted on the ten most important issues. At the beginning of each session dealing with Division Reports, delegates would be given a questionnaire, listing by Division all issues to be dealt with at that session. The questionnaire would offer a scale of 1-7 and an opportunity for delegates to indicate the degree of appropriateness a particular issue had as a priority. The hope was for completion of all voting on Division issues by Tuesday afternoon. At that time, delegates could have opportunity to study issues and group them in seemingly related issues. Some issues could stand alone, whereas others might gain strength by combination with other like ones. It was hoped that delegates would have the data of priorities by the end of the Synod. The total data would be computerized by American University, and the questionnaire weighting scale from 1-7 would indicate just how strongly delegates felt about a particular issue. Ms. Randels stated that the Executive Council would determine the final priorities, based on this computerization of delegates' prioritizing, informed by criteria such as of global perspective, continuity with Tenth General Synod Priorities and financial considerations. The result would be a balanced church program of practical, achievable priorities, evolved from a process which afforded delegates greater opportunity for participating in the determination of the final priorities. She added that this whole process would be explained again.

Henry Yordan, (CONN), felt that delegates still did not understand the process, and the Assistant Moderator recognized Mark Robinson, GS 11 Program and Planning Committee. Mr. Robinson pointed out that the process being used is a refinement of the one at the last Synod two