

SUNDAY EVENING, JULY 3

years ago, and time would be needed to gain a realistic appraisal of its viability.

Robert Baylor, (ILL), appreciated the great sensitivity built into the process, but expressed feelings about a credibility gap in that delegates' view were not being taken seriously.

Archie Aitcheson (SOC), moved an amendment to paragraph C, Section II, page 24, Advance Materials II, to read:

"Final determination of priorities shall be made by the General Synod from issues identified as of vital concern to the whole church."

The motion was seconded, and Assistant Moderator Mistlin noted this would require a motion to rescind an action of the Tenth General Synod before the body could proceed further. In addition, the time limit for Division B had been reached. There was discussion, and Mr. Thomas commented that unless the priorities process was addressed, the capability of the Business Committee to deal with the remaining part of the process would be endangered. Discussion was continued.

The Assistant Moderator outlined the two ways for addressing Mr. Aitcheson's amendment: 1) Table the amendment under discussion (Division B Report 5), rescind the action of the Tenth Synod, then deal with the Aitcheson motion; or 2) Debate the issue. Mr. Aitcheson moved, it was seconded, and it was

77-GS-25 VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod tables discussion on the Resolution, "Process for Selection of Priorities at the Eleventh General Synod."

Bonnie Ploeger, Parliamentarian, reiterated the procedure, and Mr. Aitcheson moved to rescind Section IV, subparagraph A, page 25, Minutes of the Tenth General Synod.

The motion was seconded and discussed. Taking a point of personal privilege, Executive Council Chairperson Helen Barnhill noted that the Executive Council acts as interim for the Synod. The Synod as a body does not have the capability, nor could it appreciate, the correlative role the Council plays in regard to agency programming and function.

Upon a vote, the motion to rescind the Tenth General Synod action was ruled out of order.

Discussion was closed. Mr. Thomas moved, and it was seconded, and it was

77-GS-26 VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod removes the resolution, "Process for Selection of Priorities at the Eleventh General Synod," from the table.

There was further discussion, and it was

77-GS-27 VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod adopts the resolution, "Process for Selection of Priorities at the Eleventh General Synod," as amended.

Process for Selection of Priorities

The "Priorities Program Development Within the United Church of Christ" was voted by the Tenth General Synod for two biennia. (See *Minutes Tenth General Synod United Church of Christ* vote 75-GS-28, p. 24-26). Priorities of the Eleventh General Synod will be developed in accordance

with this document, with modifications suggested from learnings of the Tenth General Synod.

A. Definition of priority

"A priority is an issue of vital concern for the whole church, meriting first attention:

to be proclaimed by its leadership, addressed by its instrumentalities, commended to Conferences, Associations, and Local Churches for acceptance and action." (75-GS-63-28)

Priorities are not the only most important work of the UCC. Executive Council affirms that some program commitments, valid and necessary to the mission of the church will not relate to programming for designated priorities.

B. Eligibility for Priority Status

The issues selected as priorities will be vital concerns of the whole church which are seen to demand special attention if the UCC is to relate to a changing world. It should have the potential for program development. It must be an issue which is acted on by the Eleventh General Synod. (Tenth General Synod priorities will come before the Eleventh General Synod).

C. Selection of Priorities

Final determination of priorities shall be made by the Executive Council from issues identified by General Synod as of vital concern to the whole Church. (75-GS-28, Section IV, Para. A).

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.