

SUNDAY EVENING, JULY 3

8. REPORT OF THE AGENDA COMMITTEE

The Assistant Moderator acknowledged Chester Eaton, Agenda Committee Chairperson, who reported scheduling of Division Reports for the balance of this Synod:

- Division F — 8:30 A.M., Monday, July 4
- Division D — 2:00 P.M., Monday, July 4
- Division C — 3:45 P.M., Monday, July 4
- Division A — 7:30 P.M., Monday, July 4
- Division E — 8:30 A.M., Tuesday, July 5

Assistant Moderator Mistlin advised that the next order of business would be the open hearing on the proposed 1978-79 budgets. Anybody wishing to remain after the close of plenary for questions was free to do so.

9. BUDGET HEARING

The Assistant Moderator recognized Mr. Myers, Finance and Budget Committee Chairperson, who invited

members of the Executive Council to come on stage, and addressed questions from the floor.

Discussion centered around the anticipated \$500,000 increase in funds seen for 1978; the salary compensation package; salaries of certain national staff persons; and the \$2,060,000 allocated by the United Church Board for World Ministries for World Wide Program. At the end of the discussion period, Mr. Myers offered that this open hearing was a response to wishes of previous Synods for fuller, open explanation of program and other funding allocations to agencies.

Ms. Barnhill acknowledged the frustration of delegates who had been having difficulty receiving full data on Division Reports. She reported that materials were being reproduced as fast as possible and asked delegates to be patient.

Assistant Moderator Gary E. Mistlin recessed the session at 11:00 P.M.

MONDAY MORNING, JULY 4

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PRAYER

Moderator Robert K. Nace reconvened the Eleventh General Synod at 8:30 a.m. He then offered the opening prayer.

2. INTRODUCTION OF REPORT OF DIVISION F

The Moderator called for the Order of the Day with the Report from Division F, and recognized Tom Eckert, Chairperson. Holly Henderson was the facilitator.

Mr. Eckert first announced that today is the birthday of his daughter, Kathy. The delegates and visitors sang "Happy Birthday" to Kathy.

It was then noted that today is also the birthday of our Nation and the body sang "Happy Birthday" to our Nation.

3. RESOLUTION ON IDENTITY IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Mr. Eckert called attention to the Advance Materials, Section II, pp.92-93, and the two documents distributed to the delegates. He then read the "Resolution on Identity in the United Church of Christ for the Eleventh General Synod" and moved its adoption. After considerable discussion by the delegates, it was

77-GS-28 VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod adopts the "Resolution on Identity in the United Church of Christ."

Resolution on Identity in the United Church of Christ

WHEREAS, The local church needs to strengthen its sense of belonging to the wider church, and

WHEREAS, The relationships among local churches and their associations, conferences and national agencies need to be built on a base of mutual respect and trust,

RESOLVED, That:

1. We call upon the national agencies, conferences, associations and local churches to reflect on our theological and ecclesiastical self understanding and practices for the purposes of developing covenant agree-

ments which embody our relatedness and common mission.

2. We urge the Office for Church Life and Leadership, the Board for Homeland Ministries and the Office of Communication to develop aids to support congregations to develop their own covenant of membership (through confirmation and reaffirmation) and to affirm their responsibility to the Association, Conference and national agencies.
3. Request the Board for Homeland Ministries to:
 - a. Explore the meaning of membership in the United Church of Christ
 - b. Develop new resources for confirmation education and leadership training
 - c. Develop new resources to assist members, prospective members, and the general public to understand the history, heritage, and present day mission of the United Church of Christ.
4. Call upon the resources of the closely related seminaries and the Historical Council to work with the various bodies of the United Church of Christ in preparing clergy and lay leadership for understanding and interpreting the history, mission and polity of the United Church of Christ.

4. BLACK CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Eckert then turned to the "Resolution on Black Church Development" (Advance Materials, Section II, pp. 101-102, and page 2 of the Division F document.) Mr. Eckert moved the adoption of the Resolution. The use of the word "priority" was discussed at length.

Lois Selmar, a member of the Business Committee, moved the following amendment: In line 3, eliminate "priority"; in line 4 substitute "action" for "priority"; in line 9, substitute "concern" for "priority"; and in line 18 substitute "action" for "priority." It was

77-GS-29a VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod adopts the Amendment in the "Resolution on Black Church Development."