

## MONDAY MORNING, JULY 4

—and, make effective use of the available resources in pursuit of the church's mission.

The vitality of the church can be diminished by the absence of any or all of these four characteristics.

Most important, the vitality of the local church is not an end in itself. Rather, it is a means to a greater end—that the churches might be faithful servants of God on behalf of God's world and God's creation.

In the interest of the vitality of the local church, the Eleventh General Synod *URGES* all national agencies, Conferences, Associations to give leadership and funding to:

1. Aid local churches to develop a sound theological base for their communal life.
2. Provide aids for creative worship and such unique celebrations as teacher recognition, and other forms of service to the church.
3. Offer leadership training and re-training for clergy and laypersons.
4. Strengthen local church relationship to the United Church of Christ so that it has a perspective of the national, Conference and Association levels as being complementary, parts of the whole church.
5. Make available programs in Christian and mission education, social action, evangelism and stewardship.
6. Help local churches to establish and realistically attain their own goals.
7. Provide models for local churches to follow by studying and understanding the makeup of the vital church.

In the United Church of Christ, there is a rich diversity among our local churches. That diversity relates to their composition, settings, size, resources, heritage or tradition, and leadership. Diversity needs to be honored and affirmed, even as it makes each congregation unique.

The Eleventh General Synod is concerned about the vitality of the *whole* United Church of Christ. Therefore, it *CALLS UPON* the national agencies, Conferences and Associations to implement specialized programs and ministries to enhance the vitality of:

1. Declining large churches
2. Smaller membership churches
3. Churches of the center cities
4. Ethnic churches
5. Emerging churches in new geographical areas
6. Alternate lifestyles and issues of human sexuality within the life of a single congregation.

Furthermore, we, the Eleventh General Synod, *BELIEVE* that active and meaningful work must be accomplished to seek those who, for one reason or another, are not presently reached by our ministries, especially in the area of traditionally bypassed and young adult segments of our society.

### 8. REPORT ON M POWER AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON STEWARDSHIP

Mr. Eckert presented the "Report on *M Power*" and "proposal on Stewardship" (Advance Materials Section II, pp. 81-85) and moved its adoption.

Doris Rikert, (VT), read her *M Power*, and another delegate read "*M Power Is*" from the floor.

It was then moved, seconded, and

77—GS-33a VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod amends the first recommendation of the Stewardship Proposal by deleting all of the sentence after "church", to read "Identifies stewardship as an issue of vital concern to the whole church."

The Moderator called for action on the Report and the proposal.

77-GS-33 VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod receives the "Report on *M Power*" and recommendations on Stewardship as amended.

### Recommendations on Stewardship

In response to God's continuing grace and the needs of the world, and in awareness of the opportunities we have to increase our faithfulness to the Gospel by increasing our support for the total mission of the United Church of Christ, the Eleventh General Synod, looking ahead to the 1978-79 biennium:

- 1) Identifies stewardship as an issue of vital concern to the whole church.
- 2) Continues the *M Power* (Stewards in Support of Mission) program adopted by the Tenth General Synod.
- 3) Encourages conferences and local churches which have not already participated in *M Power* to do so.
- 4) Instructs the Stewardship Council, the United Church Board for World Ministries, the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, and the Office for Church Life and Leadership to continue their collaborative efforts to produce coordinated stewardship resources.

### 9. WORSHIP SERVICE

The Moderator called the Order of the Day at 10:00 a.m. for the conduct of the Worship Service. The theme was "Telling the Story of Liberation". Richard Eick and A. Knighton Stanley, pastors from the Potomac Association were narrators. Clyde Parker directed a choir from Westmoreland and Peoples Church of Washington, D.C., in choral numbers from the *Amistad Opera* with music by Roger Ames and libretto by Virginia Artist.

The Moderator called for action of the General Synod to suspend the rule and change the Order of the Day to deal with the Overture in Division B.

### 10. GRATITUDE FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

The Chairperson of Division B, Franklin Thomas, called attention to the Overture: "Gratitude for Religious Freedom" (Advance Materials, Section II, pp. 123-124), and the Resolution, Exhibit 6, distributed to the delegates on Sunday evening.

Mr. Thomas moved the adoption of the Resolution as distributed to the delegates. He noted that this Resolution is substituted for the Overture in the Advance Materials. It was

77-GS-34 VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod adopts

the "Resolution on Gratitude for Religious Freedom" which follows:

**Gratitude for Religious Freedom**

WHEREAS, The United States of America has enjoyed the 200th anniversary of its Declaration of Independence, endowed by providence with abundant resources and blessed by patriots throughout the years with loyalty's gifts of nobleness and life;

WHEREAS, the heritage of religious freedom in this new nation, in principle established by our forebearers and enriched by the faith of multitudes from all lands, is threatened by prejudicial treatment of any religious groups;

WHEREAS, The recent decisions of the Supreme Court regarding indirect aid to parochial schools appear to compromise our non-establishment clause of the Constitution; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the 11th General Synod express, before all people, our gratitude to God for the opportunity of living in this good land and enjoying the blessing of its grand heritage;

RESOLVED, That the 11th General Synod express to the people of the United States our heartfelt thanksgiving for those decisions and policies which involve faithful assurance of the religious liberty we possess and cherish, and which bear witness to our holy commitment of assisting the nation in assuring the rights of its citizens to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness by which we feel free to proclaim the truth that sets people free;

RESOLVED, That we greet our fellow citizens of all churches, temples and religious groups and extend our hand in fellowship to all people of good will, offering praise to God for all our neighbors in this land we fondly call our own; and

RESOLVED, That the 11th General Synod call on all the members of the United Church of Christ to reaffirm their concern for all people of the world, to share the blessings of our heritage of religious freedom, and to sustain that precious heritage by extending the right of religious freedom to groups with which we are not in theological agreement.

**11. ELECTIONS**

The Moderator instructed the ushers to distribute the ballots for the election of two Clergy members to the Stewardship Council, Class of 1983, and for three lay persons and three Clergy members to the Nominating Committee, Class of 1983.

The ballots were cast by the delegates.

During the balloting, Frank Chong, Hawaii Conference, requested permission to present carnation and orchid leis. Leis were then presented to Joseph Evans, Charles Lockyear, Avery Post, Bernice Bobo, Lorraine Fells and Holly Henderson.

**12. ELECTION PROCESS QUESTIONED**

The Moderator recognized the delegate who stated that the quota system does not bring equality to all because it

does not provide for nominations from the floor. He moved that the Executive Council give careful consideration and authorize a quota system for nominations from the floor for the officers to be elected and to bring these suggestions to the next General Synod. The Eleventh General Synod receives the motion and refers it to the Executive Committee for consideration.

Ms. Barnhill pointed out that the word "quota" was inappropriate for this action. The General Synod amended the motion by substituting the word "category" for the word "quota."

After further discussion, the above motion was defeated.

**13. ELECTION OF UNCONTESTED NOMINEES**

The Moderator requested permission of the delegates to elect by acclamation all of the remaining uncontested nominees of the Instrumentalities and agencies of the United Church of Christ. It was

77-GS-35 VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod elects, by acclamation, the nominees listed in the Advance Materials, Section II, pp. 5-7, Report of the Nominating Committee, and the amended report distributed to all delegates for the Executive Council, Office of Communication, Office for Church in Society, Office for Church Life and Leadership, United Church Board for Homeland Ministries and United Church Board for World Ministries.

**14. MODERATOR AND ASSISTANT MODERATORS ELECTED**

The Moderator called for the action and it was

77-GS-36 VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod elects by acclamation the Moderator, Milton Hurst, and the Assistant Moderators, Donna F. Schaper, and Dorothy Shimer.

**15. TREASURER ELECTED**

It was

77-GS-37 VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod elects by acclamation Charles H. Lockyear, as Director of Finance and Treasurer.

**16. PRESIDENT ELECTED**

It was

77-GS-38 VOTED: That Avery D. Post be elected by acclamation as the fourth President of the United Church of Christ.

Immediately following the unanimous election of Mr. Post, the body broke into singing the Doxology, "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow."

Mr. Post made a brief statement to the Synod.

**Statement by Avery Post**

Well, first of all, let me say that I accept. I am grateful to God and grateful to you that you have called me to be a leader. And I intend to be a leader and to lead with strength. In my heart, full of memory and of hope and of gratitude, I am thinking, this moment of my dear friend, the first president of the United Church of Christ, Ben