

MONDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 4

IV. IMPLICATIONS

If the Eleventh General Synod adopts this overture and the constituency of the United Church of Christ acts on the recommendations as proposed;

A. The church, at all levels (local, conference, national) and in all of its operations (meetings, travel, building use) will become more aware of the need for energy conservation and act upon that awareness. The church will at all levels seek persons with expertise to discover alternatives to strip mining.

B. Each specific group (urban, rural, energy producers and consumers, agricultural and industrial) will develop a mutual sensitivity to the particular needs and problems facing each of those groups.

C. The conferences and instrumentalities will place a high priority on the development of specialized ministries for areas affected by energy development.

D. Legislation will be enacted which recognizes both the need to protect the continuing productivity of agricultural land and the continued health of persons; and, also, the need to provide adequate energy to meet the real need of energy consumers.

V. RESPONSIBILITY

The deployment of time, ability and financial resources will be affected by the seriousness with which the United Church of Christ pursues the implications of this overture, especially as it affects ministry to persons.

As energy development continues to be a national concern, new energy related needs and problems will continue to surface. These will demand an investment of available church resources which reflects the priority of this concern alongside others.

The primary responsibility for implementing this proposal should be assigned to the Committee on Christian Life Style and Ecology. The Board for Homeland Ministries and the Office for Church and Society will necessarily be among those involved in the implementation of development of specialized ministries and of influencing legislative action.

VI. ACTION

The Eleventh General Synod calls upon the United Church of Christ to reaffirm the statement and action of the Tenth General Synod on Christian Life Style and Ecology, by:

A. Recognizing the human impact of energy development in rural areas, and the church's unique ministry in transient communities, and encouraging a variety of ministries to deal with the human cost of energy development;

B. Encouraging continued reflection upon the ethical issues raised by the production of energy from strip-mined coal;

C. Encouraging our state and national governments to enact legislation which will protect the productivity of agricultural lands from any negative impacts of energy development;

D. Urging the United States government to negotiate a comprehensive treaty with Canada, dealing with all trans-boundary impacts of mineral and energy development.

E. Challenging the churches of the United Church of Christ and the public to a deeper sensitivity to the human, environmental and agricultural costs of our present life-style.

12. RESOLUTION ON CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Ms. Kear was recognized by the Moderator and referred the delegates to the Advance Material, Section II, page 137 and the "Report to the Eleventh General Synod of the United Church of Christ on 1975-1977 Corporate Social Responsibility Actions, with Special Emphasis on Southern Africa." Ms. Kear moved the adoption of the "Resolution on Corporate Social Responsibility" as amended by Division D.

The motion was seconded and there was some discussion. Ms. Kear called on Jo Means (ILL) to speak to the resolution in behalf of the Division. Ms. Means indicated that the changes in the resolution were essentially in language to make the resolution more inclusive and concise. Upon being put to a vote, it was

77-GS-47 VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod adopts the "Resolution on Corporate Social Responsibility " as amended.

Resolution on Corporate Social Responsibility

In order to bring about a higher sense of human and environmental responsibility in the corporate decision making process.

RESOLVED, That the 11th General Synod recommend that members and organizations of the United Church of Christ continue during the 1977-79 biennium Church actions to maximize developmental impact as set forth in General Synod 10's pronouncement on transnational business.

RESOLVED, That the "Report to the Eleventh General Synod of the United Church of Christ on 1975-77 Corporate Social Responsibility actions with Special Emphasis on Southern Africa," submitted jointly by the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, the United Church Board for World Ministries, the United Church Foundation, and the Pension Boards UCC, be received;

The Eleventh General Synod recommends increased attention by members and organizations of the United Church of Christ during the biennium 1978-79 to the critical ethical questions raised by the concept of Corporate Social Responsibility.

The General Synod encourages local churches, Associations, and Conferences to address business ethics and the social goals of economic activity in their communities, seeking to stimulate ecumenical action in behalf of higher standards of business morality and economic justice in the concrete circumstances of their local and regional economies.

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Copies of this report and resolution be sent to all local churches, Associations and Conferences;

Recognizing that

- a. corporations have a responsibility to shareholders to make a profit,
- b. corporations should have a humane concern for the welfare of their employees,
- c. corporations have a responsibility for the human and environmental impact of their presence,
- d. corporations have a responsibility to be concerned with the developmental goals of their host community and country.

The General Synod calls upon the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. or other appropriate ecumenical agencies to bring together representative business and church leaders in a continuing dialogue:

- a. to examine the moral bases of current corporate business practice;
- b. to weight the ethical criticisms levelled at corporations in 1976-77 federal government investigations of questionable payments and political actions of corporations whether at home or abroad;
- c. to evaluate the ability and willingness of corporations to fulfill the above recognized responsibilities;
- d. to appraise the positive and negative effects of transnational business on the development of a more just international economic order.

Background

The Seventh General Synod of the United Church of Christ named a Committee on Financial Investments to study the social and ethical dimensions of church-held investments.

The Executive Council of the United Church of Christ in 1970 received the study prepared by this Committee, "Investing Church Funds for Maximum Social Impact," commending its recommendations to the four national Instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ that hold investments in support of the national work of the denomination, asking them to make reports to the General Synod from time to time on their ministry in the area of corporate social responsibility.

13. WORLD PEACE TAX FUND

Ms. Kear was recognized by the Moderator and referred the delegates to the Advance Materials, Section II, page 118-119. She then moved the adoption of the resolution on the "World Peace Tax Fund" as proposed by Division D. The motion was seconded and there was discussion.

Arthur W. Christofersen (ILL) moved the following amendment to the resolution:

The motion was seconded. There was discussion and it was

77-GS-48a VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod amends the motion as follows: WHEREAS, the Friends Church of the Brethren, Mennonites, and the United

Methodist Church has acted in support of this World Peace Tax;

Walter Brueggemann (MO) moved the following amendment to the resolution. The motion was seconded, there was discussion and it was

77-GS-48b VOTED: WHEREAS, we look for guidance from the life, teaching, and suffering of Jesus—his passion for human well-being; his solidarity with the vulnerable against the false order of the day, his embodiment of peaceableness and courage in his ministry, his readiness to stand against the imperialism of his day with the whole of his life, and

There being no further discussion, it was

77-GS-48 VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod adopts the Resolution on the World Peace Tax Fund as amended.

World Peace Tax Fund

WHEREAS, we look for guidance from the life, teaching and suffering of Jesus—his passion for human well-being; his solidarity with the vulnerable against the false order of the day, his embodiment of peaceableness and courage in his ministry, his readiness to stand against the imperialism of his day with the whole of his life, and

WHEREAS, we must look for alternatives to war to settle international conflicts and;

WHEREAS, a bill to establish a World Peace tax fund, i.e. H.R. 4897 and S. 880, has been introduced in Congress which would amend the Internal Revenue Code to provide that taxpayers conscientiously opposed to participation in war may elect to have their income, estate, or gift tax payments spent for non-military purposes, and;

WHEREAS, we recognize the dilemma of conscientious objectors who wish to pay their full share of taxes but cannot accede to thus participating in war which is against their beliefs;

WHEREAS, the Friends Church of the Brethren, Mennonites, and the United Methodist Church has acted in support of this World Peace Tax;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Eleventh General Synod of the United Church of Christ joins with the Quaker, Brethren, Mennonite and United Methodist Churches, who have already acted in this area, to give full support to the swift passage of legislation establishing a World Peace Tax Fund and urges individual members of the UCC to write their appropriate legislators.

14. DISARMAMENT

Ms. Kear was recognized by the Moderator and referred the delegates to the Advance Material, Section II, page 117-118. She then moved for the adoption of the "Resolution on Disarmament" from Division D. The motion was seconded and there was discussion. The Reverend Wayne A. Strever spoke to this issue on behalf of the Division. There was some discussion. A motion was made to invert items 7 and 8 in the resolved section of the resolution. The motion was seconded and when put to a vote it passed.

There being no further discussion, it was

77-GS-49 VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod adopts the "Resolution on Disarmament" as amended.