

MONDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 4

Resolution on Disarmament

Whereas, we received an overture from the Northern California Conference of the United Church of Christ regarding a position statement on disarmament, and we support their overture in principle; and

Whereas, we affirm the actions of past Synods in terms of the disarmament issue.

Whereas, we affirm the Biblical rationale stated as follows: "Depart from evil and do good. Seek peace and pursue it." (Psalm 34:14) "Let us follow after the things which make for peace." (Romans 14:19) God "makes wars to cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear." (Psalm 46:9, Hosea 2:18) We pray "Hallowed be thy name," we are told that combat against civilians profanes God's name. (Amos 1:9, 13, 2:1) We are told that "all who take the sword will perish by the sword." (Matthew 26:52) Christ Jesus . . . "is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility . . . that he might create in himself one new (person) in place of the two, so making peace; and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near . . ." (Ephesians 2:14-17)

Whereas, the world is spending an estimated \$350 billion on an unresolved arms race while illiteracy, poverty, hunger, disease and unemployment are unresolved.

Whereas, President Jimmy Carter stated that "the ultimate goal of this nation should be the reduction of nuclear weapons in all nations of the world to zero".

Whereas, the increasingly scarce natural resources require a shift to peace use to meet the enormous unmet social and economic needs of all people,

RESOLVED, That the President and the Executive Council, in the name of the 11th General Synod of the United Church of Christ, to call upon our government to take the following steps:

1. That we push for reduction in the number of nuclear weapons by pursuit of the strategic arms limitation talks (SALT) working for a SALT II agreement based on the Vladivostok Accord of 1974 and commitment to early and substantial reductions in SALT III.
2. That there be a halt in development and deployment of new strategic weapons systems to include the cruise missile, the mobile ICBM, and the MARK 12-A warhead.
3. That the US should continue actively toward a comprehensive test ban treaty which would require all nations to halt all underground nuclear weapons tests and commend the President for his announcement at his press conference of June 13, 1977 that our government is "beginning this week to work closely with the Soviet Union on a comprehensive test ban treaty to prohibit all testing of nuclear devices underground or in the atmosphere.
4. That the US should renounce nuclear "first strike" and "first use" of nuclear weapons.
5. That we should ban the export of highly enriched

uranium or plutonium technology which has nuclear weapon potential as one means to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

6. That there should be continued efforts to reach agreement on the draft treaty prohibiting developments, production, and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and provisions for the destruction of existing stockpiles.
7. That the US should promptly adopt and implement policies to facilitate the conversion of production and employment from military purposes to peaceful purposes that meet the enormous accumulated unmet needs of the American people.
8. That we urge the member churches of the United Church of Christ to give strong support to the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Disarmament in May/June 1978.

A Call for the Order of the Day brought the Report of Division D to a close. Those items not yet dealt with will be handled at another session of the Eleventh General Synod.

Moderator Robert Nace called on Assistant Moderator Bryant to conduct the next session of business. Following a brief break, Assistant Moderator Bryant recalled the afternoon session.

15. INTRODUCTION OF REPORT OF DIVISION C

Assistant Moderator Bryant recognized Francis Rath, Chairperson of Division C. The Facilitator for Division C was Ed Brueggemann.

16. RESOLUTION OF DUAL-ROLE MINISTRY

Mr. Rath introduced the Resolution on "Dual-Role Ministry" submitted by the New York Conference which was handed to the delegates as printed material. Upon noting the changes from the original resolution, Mr. Rath moved for the adoption of the Resolution as amended by Division C. The motion was seconded. There being no discussion, it was

77-GS-50 VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod adopts the "Resolution on Dual-Role Ministry" as amended by Division C.

A Resolution on Dual-Role Ministry

An increasing number of ministers are becoming interested and involved in following dual careers, combining a secular occupation with ministerial service to a congregation.

Churches which cannot support a full-time ministry and wish to develop lay leadership to a greater extent, find dual-role clergy a means to continue serving their constituency and community. Large churches can also use dual-role clergy effectively.

In western New York, CODE, (Clergy Occupational Development and Employment) has been working out procedures to assist both clergy and churches as they explore this relatively new field, in cooperation with seven judicatories of the United Church of Christ, Episcopal, Baptist, and Presbyterian Churches.

MONDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 4

RESOLVED, That dual-role (or tent-maker) ministry, a long standing form of professional service within our Christian tradition, warrants consideration by Association and/or Conference Committees on Ministry in the United Church of Christ;

RESOLVED, That the Office for Church Life and Leadership study the development of such ministerial styles for churches and clergy, such as the pilot project, CODE (Clergy Occupational Development and Employment) and promote theological reflection on the matter of the future shape of ministry.

RESOLVED, That learnings and understandings of these discussions be disseminated to the local churches, associations and conferences for review.

17. RESOLUTION ON DISCIPLES/UCC CONVERSATIONS

Mr. Rath was recognized by the Assistant Moderator and referred the delegates to the Advance Materials, Section II, page 20. He moved the adoption of the "Resolution on Disciples/UCC Conversations" as presented. The motion was seconded and there was some discussion.

In accordance with Standing Rule 16 the question of financial implications was raised and Mr. Rath indicated that the amount would come to approximately \$3,000. He spoke in favor of the resolution on behalf of the Division. Upon being put to a vote, it was

77-GS-51 VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod adopts the "Resolution on Disciples/UCC Conversations."

Resolution on Disciples/UCC Conversations

The Eleventh General Synod adopts the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED

1. That the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the General Synod of the United Church of Christ authorize conversations to explore the possible union of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ.
2. That a two year exploration regarding union be made together at all levels of the life of these two churches.
3. That such exploration focus upon issues related to the Church's calling to reconciliation, unity, and mission, and the appropriateness of church union in these times.
4. That the Council on Christian Unity of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the Council on Ecumenism of the United Church of Christ be given the joint responsibility of facilitating these conversations and for reporting their implications to the 1979 General Synod and General Assembly of these two churches.

18. INTRODUCTION OF KENNETH TEEGARDEN

Assistant Moderator Bryant recognized President Joseph Evans for a Point of Personal Privilege. Mr. Evans introduced Kenneth Teegarden, President of the Disciples of Christ. Mr. Teegarden expressed a few words to the General Synod and indicated that the Disciples of Christ

would be holding their General Assembly in Kansas City later this year and would be taking action on the same resolution just passed. He thanked everyone for the very gracious and warm welcome he and his wife, Wanda, had felt during their stay at General Synod.

19. THE CHURCH AND PERSONS WITH HANDICAPS

Mr. Rath referred the delegates to the Advance Materials, Section II, page 116-117 and the Pronouncement C entitled: "The Church and the Handicapped." He moved for the adoption of this Resolution. The motion was seconded. There was supportive discussion which followed as it was noted that consciousness and sensitivity to the needs of handicapped persons needs to be raised within our local churches. There were many who urged the adoption of this resolution by the General Synod.

Allen MacLean (NY) asked for the Privilege of Voice for two personal testimonies—Virginia Kreyer, Chairperson of the New York Conference Metropolitan Association Task Force on Exceptional People, and Harold Wilke of the Healing Community. Each gave a moving expression of concern to the General Synod about handicapped persons.

Barbara Backman, (CONN), moved a friendly amendment to line 32 of the Pronouncement. It was seconded and

77-GS-52a VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod amends "The Church and Persons with Handicaps" by adding, "and to remove all physical barriers to this end." to line 32. The discussion was called to a close and it was

77-GS-52 VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod adopts "The Church and Persons With Handicaps" as amended.

The Church and Persons With Handicaps

Background

One tenth of all Americans are physically and mentally handicapped* and most are not seen in church because of attitudinal or architectural barriers. Many are confined at home, with relatively few in institutions. This task force asks, on their behalf, the United Church to consider their need for participation within the mainstream of community and church life, and calls for special study and action by the congregations, Conferences and the General Synod.

The church community should focus on the needs of all kinds of disadvantaged persons, especially the handicapped, as voiced in resolutions by several denominations.

The church should support the statement of the World Council of Churches, Nairobi, Kenya, November 1975, which say in part:

"The church cannot exemplify 'the full humanity revealed in Christ,' bear witness to the interdependence of humankind, or achieve unity in diversity if it continues to acquiesce in the social isolation of disabled persons and to deny them full participation in its life. The unity of the family of God is handicapped where these brothers and sisters are treated as objects of condescending charity. It is broken where they are left out."

*Preface, The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 Public Law 93-112.