

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.