

MONDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 4

the church needs the school as a tool for its continuing reformation; the school needs the church as a deterrent to intellectual idolatry.

It is critical now that the United Church of Christ reaffirm commitment to church-related higher education and reaffirm support for its related educational institutions. Here lies the greatest promise for humanizing, liberating, and redeeming persons and society.

23. RESOLUTION IN RESPONSE TO RESOLUTIONS FROM ZION CHURCH, NORTH CANTON, OHIO AND THE UCC OF ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

Mr. Rath was recognized by the Assistant Moderator and referred the delegates to the Advance Material, Section II, page 128 and the printed materials hand-out "Resolution in Regard to Statements and Actions of General Synod and Denominational Representatives" which should be before them. Mr. Rath spoke to the Division C resolution and moved its adoption by the General Synod. The motion was seconded and there was discussion.

Rowland Kech (ILL) moved an amendment to the resolution by adding a fifth paragraph. It was recorded. After discussion it was

77-GS-55a VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod amends the motion by adding "Asks the Executive Council and our national instrumentalities through such means as they can devise, seek to deepen, broaden and express at every possible opportunity the Biblical and theological dimensions of the issues they address, whether those issues pertain to public policy or to program proposals for the United Church of Christ."

It was

77-GS-55 VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod adopts the "Resolution in Response to Resolutions from Zion Church, North Canton, Ohio and the UCC of Annapolis, Maryland" as amended.

A Resolution in Response to Resolutions from Zion Church, North Canton, Ohio and the UCC of Annapolis, Md.

General Synod 11 gratefully hears the statements and petitions of Zion UCC of North Canton, Ohio and of the UCC of Annapolis, MD and celebrates their desire to be faithful to the gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

General Synod 11

1. *affirms* that the General Synod and national staff are also attempting to act faithfully as they seek to be informed by, and faithful to, the Word made flesh in the Lord Jesus Christ, and attested to in the Scriptures;
2. *acknowledges* that it is often difficult to make clear the theological rationale for an action or program, and that people of good-will can differ on the accuracy/adequacy of any particular theological or biblical rationale;
3. *encourages* the national staff to continue the serious task of informing and nurturing the church both in faith and responsible action;
4. also *encourages* members and congregations and

GS 11 delegates to dialogue with each other on concerns and programs of the United Church of Christ;

5. *asks* the Executive Council and our national instrumentalities through such means as they can devise, seek to deepen, broaden and express at every possible opportunity the Biblical and theological dimensions of the issues they address, whether those issues pertain to public policy or to program proposals for the United Church of Christ.

24. RESOLUTION ON THE CHURCH AND THE ARTS

Mr. Rath was recognized by the Assistant Moderator, introduced the resolution, and referred the delegates to the printed material before them. He moved adoption of the "Resolution on the Church and the Arts." The motion was seconded. Following a brief discussion, it was

77-GS-56 VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod adopts the "Resolution on the Church and the Arts."

Resolution on the Church and the Arts

WHEREAS, we are heirs of the Biblical inheritance of art, of the God who created form out of chaos and who put life and breath into the dust of the earth, of David who danced before the ark and sang songs of the faith, of Miriam who sang songs of joy, of Jesus who drew pictures in parables and raised the common elements of our lives to a symbolic and sacred use, and of John who revealed a new vision of heaven coming to earth;

WHEREAS, the Church through the ages has been a patron and preserver of the arts and the artists;

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ firmly believes in the development of the whole person as a cultural, social and political being;

WHEREAS, the potential for magnificent creative activity exists within and among each of us;

WHEREAS, we believe that the arts are a prophetic and effective channel for the mediation of God's judgment and grace for the redemption of the world; we are drawn into a work of art, we experience its transforming power; the arts open us to new ways of understanding both personal and public life and give us insight and energy to act in love and justice for the sake of the Holy.

RESOLVED, That the 11th General Synod of the United Church of Christ affirms the contributions of arts and artists that enrich the quality and the vitality of life in our Church and world. We recognize that artists illuminate the symbols by which the religious dimensions of life and experience are made known. Also, that they enable the people of God to experience and express the living and liberating power of God, and to renew, sustain, and transform people in a new sense of themselves as persons and in relation to each other in community;

RESOLVED, That we encourage freedom to bring to creative expression the religious dimension of our life which nurtures community;

RESOLVED, That we urge the United Church of Christ, through its instrumentalities, publications, and church-

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related institutions (educational, welfare, health, etc.) to recognize further and support the arts;

RESOLVED, That we urge local churches to:

1. Encourage the expression of all forms of art.
2. Examine their use of physical space in order to consider sharing space available with the community's artists.
3. Support and expand the number of artists in residence both in the Church and in the community.
4. Struggle for justice for the artists in our society.
5. Support arts agencies and councils, municipal governments, school districts, at state and local levels, to the end that no one be denied opportunities to create and experience art, because of barriers, e.g., circumstance, class, race, sex, income, or remoteness;

RESOLVED, That we encourage all members of the Church, laity and clergy, to open themselves to the power and dynamics of the contemporary arts.

We encourage seminaries and colleges related to the Church to take seriously aesthetic ways of knowing and communicating through art the judgment and grace of God in their curricula and degree programs.

We encourage the judicatories of the Church to recognize and support certain churches as having special ministries to and with artists.

We support and urge membership in the United Church of Christ Fellowship in the Arts.

25. RESOLUTION ON POLITICAL EDUCATION AND SENSITIVITY

Mr. Rath was recognized by Assistant Moderator Bryant and referred the delegates to the Advance Materials, Section II, pages 134-135. Mr. Rath called attention to items 1, 2, and 3 in the resolved section of the resolution indicating that the Division felt these were the issues which agencies are or should be involved. He moved for the adoption of the "Resolution on Political Education and Sensitivity" as amended by the Division. The motion was seconded and there was discussion.

Robert Johnston moved, it was seconded and it was

77-GS-57a VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod amends the motion to insert ecclesiastical in the paragraph two of the resolved section.

Discussion around the question of financial implications of this resolution followed. Various instrumentality executives spoke to the issue and it was clarified that there was no additional financial implications. Upon being put to a vote it was:

77-GS-57 VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod adopts the "Resolution on Political Education and Sensitivity" as amended.

Resolution on Political Education and Sensitivity

WHEREAS, many people have committed to memory John 3:16 — "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son . . ." — and though this verse has

become one of the best-known and often-quoted verses in the Scripture, we have often failed to take cognizance of one of the key words of that verse — "world". We have believed, rather, that God so loved the church, or the well-behaved people or the Christians, but not really the world; i.e. the whole people.

The church is people; people who are called in every time and every place to the task of continuing the essential ministry of Christ. We in the U.C.C. need to understand that ministry and responsibly appropriate it in the world.

A single resolution cannot but explore all the dimensions of Christ's ministry, nor examine thoroughly even one of these but suffice it to indicate that no systematic presentation of this ministry could fail to take cognizance of how Jesus stood "within" the tradition of the prophets. And, therefore, any reasonable formulation of that essential ministry must provide for a prophetic ministry. We seek to reflect upon that prophetic ministry and draw out some of its implications for urgent implementation in today's church.

1. Moses is recorded as crying out, "Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, that the Lord would put the Spirit upon them" (Numbers 11:29b). That understanding of prophetic responsibility is echoed in the teachings of Jesus and throughout the New Testament. We, in the United Church of Christ, have "owned" that view; namely, that ministry is the calling of the whole people of God—not just the ordained.
2. As the Old and New Testament traditions proclaimed the essential unity of life, as the pivotal figures of the Reformation period affirmed this unity, and as our ancestral forebears with roots in many cultures believed in and taught that essential unity, we would be significantly departing from our traditions, heritage and roots if we act in a manner as to neglect or deny this unity.
3. Reaffirming the theological import of the New Testament concept of the "Body of Christ," we must again and again understand and shape our actions as a corporate body—not just individual Christians. Implied in that understanding is the imperative that we so organize ourselves to effectively perform a prophetic ministry. That is to say, marshalling our resources to maximize the proclamation of the Word (as defined in Luke 4:16-21) including the empowerment of people to impact public policy determinations. No longer can we afford or in good faith allow it to be true that politics is the prerogative of one race or class of people.

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has historically sought:

1. To raise the level of sensitivity, conscience and consciousness of our churches to the political realities of the world
2. To "equip the saints" for the task of prophetic ministry within the Biblical tradition
3. To call upon the whole Church to faithfully exercise a prophetic ministry of empowerment and