

## MONDAY EVENING, JULY 4

declared by the United Nations and urges instrumentalities, agencies, conferences, associations and congregations to support its goals by examining and fulfilling their role as advocates for children.

RESOLVED, That regarding *Intergenerational Education*, the Eleventh General Synod of the United Church of Christ, encourages the congregations of the UCC, assisted by the conferences, associations and instrumentalities, to explore and experiment with intentional intergenerational experiences for the purpose of education, worship, fellowship and/or decision-making. Because each congregation includes all ages, the church is in a unique situation to provide intergenerational experiences which celebrate the gifts of each person, regardless of age.

RESOLVED, That regarding *Adult Education*, the Eleventh General Synod of the United Church of Christ, urges the BHM to research the adult educational needs of small churches during the biennium and plan to provide appropriate educational material.

### 6. RECOMMENDATIONS IN REGARD TO THE HUMAN SEXUALITY STUDY

It was moved that the Synod change the order of business to insure deliberation on the important issue of Human Sexuality. This was seconded, there was no discussion, and it was

77-GS-63 VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod changes the order of business of Division A, and deal with "Recommendations in Regard to the Human Sexuality Study."

Moderator Nace called a short break in the proceedings.

The Moderator again acknowledged Mr. Miller, who referred to page 7 of the Division A Report. He noted the Division had dealt with this matter in two small groups, insuring total Division input into the 18 recommendations therein. Mr. Miller moved for acceptance of the Division A Report, "Recommendations in Regard to the Human Sexuality Study," deferring to Cheryl Clark, Nebraska. Ms. Clark read a portion of the Tenth General Synod Minutes authorizing this study (4.B, second paragraph). The Division as a whole felt these Recommendations were faithful to the action of that Synod, in providing for an extensive resource to help people at all church levels in guidance and counselling.

J. Richard Coyle, (PW), offered an amendment to Section 18 of the Recommendations, deleting the clause reading "recognizes the rights of adults to access to sexually explicit materials." The motion was seconded, and Mr. Coyle commented that this phrase in juxtaposition with the preceding one, seemed to say the UCC was advocating pornography. Local churches would have difficulty with this section, and First Amendment guarantees would be covered in the succeeding phrase. There was much discussion, centering upon protection of First Amendment rights, and affirming free choice in reading of materials. Upon vote, the motion was lost.

Georgann Hilbert, (OHIO), proposed an amendment to Section 15 of the Recommendations. This was seconded, and it was

77-GS-64a; VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod

amends Section 15 of the "Recommendations in Regard to the Human Sexuality Study" by insertion of the word "congregations," between the word "the" and "associations."

Kenneth Brookes, (ME), moved that the Recommendations be amended by deletion of recommendations 2 through 18. This was seconded, and Mr. Brookes offered that if the process outlined in Section 1 was allowed to work, local churches would perhaps be more welcoming to the Recommendations.

Moderator Nace noted that the agenda time allotted to Division A had elapsed, and acknowledged Chester Eaton, Chairperson of the Agenda Committee. That committee sensed the intense interest in the issue before the body; and in order that other Divisions might have full, uninterrupted agenda for their reports, the Agenda Committee was recommending the following schedule adjustments:

Division G Report — 8:35 A.M., Tuesday, July 5

Division E Report — 10:30 A.M., Tuesday, July 5

Division A Report to continue at this session.

Discussion on the Brookes' amendment continued, a vote was taken, and the motion was lost.

Barbara Weller, (PSE), offered an amendment to follow 1, of the Recommendations, to be numbered 2., thereby renumbering all subsequent items: "2. Receives the statement, *Thoughts on Human Sexuality*, by Martin Duffy and recommends that it be attached as an addendum to the *Human Sexuality Report* when it is transmitted to congregations, associations, conferences, and instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ for study and response; and that it be used along with the Report for further study of this issue by appropriate groups."

The motion was seconded and discussed. Mr. Miller said that the Duffy statement came from the Thursday, June 30 open hearing on this issue. Upon vote, the motion was declared lost. Ms. Weller asked a call for division of the house, delegates stood for a vote count, and Moderator Nace again declared the motion lost.

Mary Jo Romberger, (PSE), proposed an amendment to Section 3 of the Recommendations: Delete the final period and continue . . . "and develop an annotated bibliography of sources reflecting more traditional viewpoints on the whole issue of human sexuality to be distributed with the Preliminary Report." The motion was seconded, debated, and upon vote, was declared lost.

Walter Brueggemann, (MO), spoke in favor of the main motion, especially recommendation 14, as a "sound and mature advance." He moved to substitute the word "metaphors" for "images" in that section. The motion was seconded, and Mr. Brueggemann explained that the church needs a new repertory of symbolistic terminology. The Bible forbids "images" and "metaphors" would afford an openness and freedom in the concept people have of God. It was

77-GS-64b VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod substitutes the word "metaphors" in lieu of the word "images" in Recommendation 14 of the "Recommendations in Regard to the Human Sexuality Study."

Harold Henning, Penn Southeast, proposed an amend-

ment to recommendation 8 of the Recommendations, deleting reference to institutionalized persons. The motion was seconded, and Mr. Henning explained it as an attempt to replace the rather derogatory and limiting "institutionalized persons" with a more inclusive reference to both institutionalized and non-institutionalized persons, in full control of their faculties, and in need for protection of their rights to sexual expression. There was discussion, and it was

77-GS-64c VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod deletes the words "of institutionalized persons," and insert the words "adult persons served." in Recommendation 8 of the "Recommendations in Regard to the Human Sexuality Study."

Frank Chong, Pacific and Asian American Ministries, proposed an amendment to Section 3 of the Recommendations to add "to study human sexuality as it relates to ethnic minorities" after "United Church Board for Homeland Ministries" and to add "and ethnic minorities" after "groups."

The motion was seconded, and Mr. Chong commented that this preliminary study contained no reference to ethnic groups, and the work Homeland Ministries would do could have importance for those groups. Discussion followed, a vote taken, and the motion declared lost.

Max Stackhouse, (MASS), offered a friendly amendment to delete the words "and commends it" from Section 1, inserting "all" asks all concerned delegates to send suggested revisions to the staff editors of this document by the end of this month, requests the editors to revise and edit wherever advisable, and to send the revised report to the congregations, associations, conferences, and instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ for study and response."

The second portion of his amendment dealt with deletion of the words "and experiment" through "between persons" of Section 6. This motion was seconded, both portions were discussed, and upon vote the motion declared lost.

The Moderator now directed delegates to adoption of the Recommendations as a whole. He advised those present to be prepared for a standing vote. Barbara Weller, (PSE), had sent forth a prior request for a minority report, pursuant to Paragraph 22 of the Standing Rules, Advance Materials II, page 49, her motion: "Resolved, That the Eleventh General Synod of the United Church of Christ receives the statement, *Thoughts on Human Sexuality* by Martin Duffy and recommends that it be sent to the congregations, associations, conferences, and instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ as a minority statement, along with the *Human Sexuality Report*, for study and response; and that it be used along with the Report as a basis for further study of this issue by any appropriate groups."

This prior request for a minority report had been seconded. Moderator Nace and Mr. Kornegay of the Business Committee explained if at least 25% of voting delegates had been against a passed motion, they were entitled to file a minority viewpoint on the voted issue. While counting by the tellers proceeded the delegates sang "Swing Low,

Sweet Chariot." Upon a standing count the final tabulation was:

Total votes cast — 619

For — 409

Against — 210

The Moderator announced these final tallies and it was

77-GS-64 VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod adopts the "Recommendations in Regard to the Human Sexuality Study," as amended.

### Recommendations in Regard to Human Sexuality Study

RESOLVED, That the 11th General Synod of the United Church of Christ:

1. Receives the report, "Human Sexuality: A Preliminary Study" with appreciation, and commends it to the congregations, associations, conferences, and instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ for study and response.
2. Reaffirms the present important ministries throughout the United Church of Christ and recommends the development of new liturgies, theology, and counseling services which enable the full participation and sharing of gifts of all persons: children, youth, older persons, nuclear families, those who live alone, or choose other lifestyles.
3. Calls upon the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries to continue to provide leadership in developing resources concerning human sexuality for appropriate use by various age groups in local churches and to provide consultative services and training for conferences, associations and congregations who wish to sponsor programs concerned with human sexuality and family life.
4. Requests the UCC-related seminaries, conferences, and instrumentalities to continue developing courses and resources through which clergy, seminary students, and laity may be prepared to minister in the area of human sexuality and to address related public policy issues.
5. Urges pastors, members, congregations, conferences and instrumentalities to support programs in which information about human sexuality can be made available through such major American institutions as elementary and secondary education, adult education, social welfare agencies, medical services, and the communication media.
6. Encourages the congregations of the United Church of Christ, assisted by conferences and instrumentalities, to study and experiment with liturgical rites to celebrate important events and passages in human experience (transitions, anniversaries, separations, and reunions) and relationships of commitment between persons. The Office for Church Life and Leadership and the Board for Homeland Ministries are asked to facilitate the sharing of such liturgical experience.
7. Calls upon the Board for Homeland Ministries, the Commission for Racial Justice, the Office of Communication, and the conferences to develop and share model programs that can help local churches minister to and educate their communities about the components of sexual violence, including rape, marital violence, child abuse, abusive medical practices, and domination and submission images in the media of relationships between women and

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men portrayed as exclusive expressions of human interaction.

8. Calls upon pastors, congregations, conferences and instrumentalities to address, in their own programs and in those of public and private agencies, the concerns for sexuality and lifestyle of persons who have physical or emotional handicaps, or who are retarded, elderly, or terminally ill. Because of its faithful ministry through care of the young, handicapped, retarded and aged, we urge the Council for Health and Welfare Services to encourage administrators and staff of member institutions to respect the needs for intimacy of adult persons served, and protect the right of sexual expression as important to self-worth, affirmation of life, and avoidance of isolation.

9. Urges the Board for Homeland Ministries, the Commission for Racial Justice, and the Office for Church in Society to work for the protection of persons threatened by coercive use of sterilization, medical treatment, experimental research, or the withholding of medical information, and to fully inform these persons of their rights under the law.

10. Calls upon pastors, members, congregations, conferences and instrumentalities to encourage the extension of contraceptive information and services by both public and private agencies for all youth and adults as instrumental to preventing undesirable pregnancies and fostering responsible family planning.

11. Affirms the right of women to freedom of choice with regard to pregnancy expressed by the Eighth General Synod and interpreted as a constitutional right in the January 22, 1973 decisions of the Supreme Court which remove the legal restrictions on medical termination of pregnancy through the second trimester. Pastors, members, congregations, conferences, instrumentalities and agencies are urged to resist in local communities or in legislative halls attempts to erode or negate the 1973 decisions of the court and to respect and protect the First Amendment rights to differences of opinion and freedom from intimidation concerning the issue of abortion.

Deplors the June 20, 1977 decision of the U.S. Supreme Court and recent actions of the U.S. Congress that effectually deprive the poor of their Constitutional rights of choice to end or complete a pregnancy, while leaving the well-to-do in the full enjoyment of such rights.

Calls upon UCC members, congregations, associations, conferences and instrumentalities to assure that publicly supported hospitals provide medical services to women within their usual service area to exercise their Constitutional right to end or complete pregnancies; and to petition their State legislatures and the U.S. Congress to assure that poor will be provided with medical services to exercise their Constitutional rights to end or complete pregnancies.

12. Calls upon instrumentalities to address the economic

structures which victimize women (and men) and explore such strategies as compensation for housework and child care, Social Security for homemakers, programs for displaced homemakers, insurance benefits for pregnancies, and quality day care.

13. Affirms the wide public attention being given to issues related to sexuality and sex roles, particularly as they affect women, but expresses concern regarding the need to explore such issues as they affect men. The 11th General Synod urges the Board for Homeland Ministries, the Office for Church Life and Leadership, conferences, associations, and congregations to develop programs which take into account the needs, experiences and viewpoints of both males and females, and which encourage further understanding of sexual identity; the effects of sex role stereotyping and present economic, legal, political and other societal conditions based upon gender.

14. Recommends to all instrumentalities, agencies, conferences, associations, and congregations that language they use reflect both feminine and masculine metaphor about God, and draw upon the diverse metaphor of God represented in the Bible, in the Christian tradition and in contemporary experience.

15. Recognizes that diversity exists within the UCC about the meaning of ordination, the criteria for effective ministry, and the relevance of marital status, affectional or sexual preference or lifestyle to ordination and performance of ministry. It requests the congregations, associations, and conferences to address these issues seeking more full and common understanding of their implications. It requests the Office for Church Life and Leadership to develop resources to facilitate such understanding.

16. Urges congregations, associations, conferences, and instrumentalities to work for the decriminalization of private sexual acts between consenting adults.

17. Urges that States legislatively recognize that traditional marriage is not the only stable living unit which is entitled to legal protection in regards to socio-economic rights and responsibilities.

18. Deplors and condemns the dehumanizing portrayals of women and men, the abuse of children, and the exploitation of sex in printed and electronic media of communication, recognizes the rights of adults to access to sexually explicit materials, and affirms that efforts toward change must recognize First Amendment principles.

Moderator Nace declared that 409 votes represents 66 percent of the delegates and that the 210 votes against the motion was 34 per cent. This would enable those delegates to submit a minority statement. The delegates wishing to participate in the minority report were asked to meet after the recess.

All present sang "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah," and Mr. Nace declared the session recessed at 11:20 P.M.

## TUESDAY MORNING, JULY 5

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Assistant Moderator, Gary E. Mistlin, called the Tuesday morning session of the Eleventh General Synod to order at 8:35 a.m.

The Assistant Moderator recognized Chester Eaton of The Agenda Committee who outlined the schedule for the day.

The Assistant Moderator recognized Arreta Smith,