

RESOLVED, That the Eleventh General Synod of the United Church of Christ reaffirm the God-given right of all persons to useful and remunerative work, together with the responsibility to provide for themselves and their dependents, and that it therefore also do the following:

1. Call on all Americans to recognize this right and this responsibility and to reflect on their meaning and implications for the future of the family, neighborhood, city, countryside and nation.

2. Call on the federal, state, and local governments together with industry, business, labor and the unemployed to formulate and implement policies and programs to achieve full employment.

3. Call on all congregations, associations, conferences, and agencies of the church to commit themselves to prayer and bible study, discussion and action which will raise the principles of this pronouncement to consciousness and implementation; and sponsor seminars, workshops and conferences to actively engage representatives of government, industry, business, labor, the unemployed, agriculture and civic groups in cooperative development of forms of work that will be viable in the future.

4. Instruct the Executive Council to make these principles and the working out of their implications a high concern (top priority) of the denomination.

5. Instruct the Executive Council to implement this priority by:

A. Requesting the Board for Homeland Ministries to administer the program envisioned by the General Synod and to appoint an advisory committee representative of other instrumentalities and agencies of the church including the Office for Church in Society, the Office of Church Life and Leadership, the Commission on Racial Justice, and representatives of the broader society;

B. Allocating \$100,000\* annually for the bienium to carry out the program;

C. Requesting the Board for Homeland Ministries report in the Twelfth General Synod, on the work accomplished by the churches, associations, Conferences and agencies.

6. Instruct the president of the United Church of Christ to communicate this pronouncement to the President of the United States, in person, and also to communicate it to the Congress, to the National Council of Churches and its member communions.

7. Request each conference to communicate this pronouncement to its federal, state and local elected officials.

## 5. OUR ECONOMIC SYSTEM

The Chairperson then moved the resolution "Concerning Our Economic System" in material distributed, which replaced Advance Materials, Section II, p. 124, and called on Rebecca Wyant, (PW), to speak to the Resolution. It was seconded and

77-GS-67 VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod adopts the resolution "Concerning Our Economic System."

\*This figure is in accordance with Standing Rule 16 and not a guarantee for funding.

## Concerning Our Economic System

WHEREAS the American free enterprise system has served the needs of many American people and for this we of the UCC gathered in this Eleventh General Synod are grateful; and

WHEREAS we are aware that there are problems in our system which we need to address; many among us still live in economic need, lacking a job, decent housing, adequate food, good health care and educational opportunity; and

WHEREAS, our concern as Christians is that any economic system meets the needs of people; and

WHEREAS, the UCC Consumer Protection Program developed under Neighbors in Need funding has proven to be an effective way to enable individuals to participate wisely in our economic system;

RESOLVED, That we affirm and support those aspects of our economic system which meet the needs of people and call for changes whenever those needs are not being met;

And be it further resolved, that we call upon the Eleventh General Synod to continue funding the Consumer Protection Program.

It was noted in accordance with Standing Rule 16 that a cost estimate for two years was \$110,000.

## 6. HUMAN RIGHTS WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON RUMANIA, PHILIPPINES AND SOUTH KOREA.

Ms. Skinner moved a "Resolution on Human Rights with Special Emphasis on Rumania, Philippines and South Korea." This resolution combines Human Rights and Overtures on Rumania, South Korea and Philippines and does not appear in the Advance Materials. It was seconded and it was

77-GS-68 VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod adopts the "Resolution on Human Rights with Special Emphasis on Rumania, Philippines and South Korea.

### A Resolution on Human Rights with Special Emphasis on Rumania, Philippines and South Korea

*(combining Resolution on Human Rights and overtures on Rumania, South Korea and Philippines)*

## THEOLOGICAL PROLOGUE

Respect for Human rights lies at the very heart of our Christian Faith. All persons are created in the image of God and are endowed with the freedom to mirror in their relationship to God, neighbor, nature, and society the divine intention for a harmony of love, justice and peace.

In Jesus of Nazareth, God appeared among us as a fellow-human being to live, die and rise again as One totally for others. We regard his life as God's supreme demonstration for us of what it means to be human. We also discern in it the inestimable dignity of our common humanity as God's favored dwelling place.

His death was no accident. It was the price he paid for defending the rights of the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, the ones who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, and those persecuted for the sake of justice. So great was his regard for the sanctity of all human life that

he died with words of forgiveness for his executioners.

His resurrection is the invincible power of God's love to secure the abundant life intended for everyone and to defeat every evil power ranged against it, and the violation of any right that keeps any human being from the abundant life promised and fulfilled in Jesus Christ is, therefore, not just a crime against humanity but defiance against God.

NOW THEREFORE, the Eleventh General Synod calls to attention and action three specific and several general areas of concern:

#### RUMANIA

WHEREAS curtailment of fundamental human rights and cultural freedoms persists in the Socialist Republic of Rumania with special emphasis upon national minorities, particularly in the fields of education, labor policy, bilingualism and religious liberty despite the signing of international agreements which reaffirm the provision of Article 27 of the United Nations Covenant of Civil and Political Rights that "in those States in which ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities exist, persons belonging to such minorities shall not be denied the right in community with other members of their group, to enjoy their own culture, to profess and practice their own religion, or to use their own language"; and

WHEREAS the Rumanian State, through its organ the Ministry of Cults, exercises a policy of total interference in ecclesiastical matters regardless of their administrative, social or theological nature, which harms especially the minority populations—among them 2.5 million Hungarians and 400,000 Saxon-Germans in Transylvania, a land which was first in Europe to proclaim religious liberty—as the church is the only remaining institution which could fulfill the socio-cultural needs of minorities and permit them to nurture their ethnic heritage.

#### SOUTH KOREA

WHEREAS, as Christians in the United States, we feel called to voice our support for the people of South Korea, we declare our faith and we give witness to the unfortunate and continuing developments which systematically deprive the human rights and humanity of our brothers and sisters in South Korea, including:

- rule by Presidential fist* in the form of "Emergency Decrees: which are "legal" under the Yushin Constitution of 1972, which effectively eliminated democratic government and made *Park Chung-Hee* president for life;
- enforcement of Presidential orders by the all-powerful Korean Central Intelligence Agency (KCIA), which interferes in all aspects of the lives of Korean citizens;
- regular use of:
  - *detainment* without formal charge, trial without due process,
  - false evidence and confessions induced by physical and mental torture,
  - little or no medical treatment for political prisoners;
- the *execution (1975) of eight innocent men* on charges of spying;
- the imprisonment of eight Korean leaders of the "March

1st Group," who read a Declaration for Democratic Salvation at an ecumenical prayer service, on March 1, 1976, and life imprisonment, plus seven years, for democratic poet Kim Chi-Ha on charges of writing poetry critical of the Park regime;

- Harassment* and firing of factory workers who organize for better working conditions or a decent wage; urban/ industrial mission workers harassed and deported. "Foreign investors are given special protection from unwarranted labor disputes.: South Korea's "favorable climate for foreign investment" includes special tax privileges and exemptions, "free export zones," protection and guarantee of foreign property, remittance of dividends, and principal. President Park has stated: "If a big U.S. corporation invests in a large amount, it has the same effect, in terms of national security, as the stationing of one infantry division (of the U.S. army)."
- April and May, 1977: police break-in at church headquarters, confiscation of the second Charter for Democratic National Salvation (written on March 22, 1977), on which over 3000 signatures had been gathered—and the arrest of many signers; torture of Lee Jik-Hyun, Chairman of Korean National Council of Churches Human Rights Commission; Park regime crackdown on Christian democratic leaders immediately after a U.S. Congressional investigation team interviewed them. Included arrest under formal charges as communist spies of five Presbyterian seminarians. Their crime: reading a statement advocating a return of democracy at a Maundy Thursday church service. (The charge carries a possible death sentence.)

#### PHILIPPINES

WHEREAS, the internal affairs of the Philippines have been dominated by the U.S. since it became our first colony in 1898, and has continued to be dominated economically and politically by the U.S. since gaining its formal independence in 1946, and

WHEREAS, martial law was declared by President Marcos in 1972, causing the loss of freedom of the press, of speech, of the right to assemble, and of the right to strike and causing the mass eviction of "slum-squatters," and

WHEREAS, the United States has in the past used the Philippines as a "Showcase of Democracy" in Asia, has increased military aid to this dictatorship by 100% since 1972, and

WHEREAS, the presence of U.S. bases in the Philippines provides logistical support to the Marcos regime and serves mainly to protect the U.S. corporate investment there, rather than to protect the strategic interests of the U.S. and the Philippines, and

WHEREAS, the 200% increase of U.S. economic aid since 1972 serves to strengthen the wealth and power of the Marcos Regime rather than improving the economic condition of the people themselves, and

WHEREAS, International and Religious organizations, including Amnesty International, have documented "widespread and systematic use of torture" on political detainees by the Philippine military and police forces, and

WHEREAS, U.C.C. minister, Cesar Taguba, was severely tortured and kept in prison for three years under the charge of "illegal association" although he was not informed of the charge when arrested, and

WHEREAS, Trinidad Herrera, the president of ZOTO (an organization of "slum-squatters"), was arrested and tortured with electric shocks and is awaiting trial.

#### THE UNITED STATES

WHEREAS, we confess our own failure to achieve a society which fully protects the human rights of all our citizens, our own lack of diligence and commitment to correct the systemic violation of rights in some of our laws and institutions, our own deafness to the anguished cries for help by those whose rights are violated because they hold unpopular views, pursue unconventional life-styles, belong to powerless minority groups or are deprived of resources with which to protect themselves, and

WHEREAS, on December 10, 1948, the United Nations General Assembly speaking in many tongues and out of many faith traditions adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to be used "as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and nations," a standard highly consonant with our faith and the basis for world wide solidarity, and

WHEREAS, the United Nations has developed international covenants for the implementation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights\* which are now being considered for signature, ratification or accession by various member nations, and

WHEREAS, President Carter in his United Nations speech of March 17, 1977, and elsewhere has declared human rights to be of high priority for his administration in its foreign policy, and

WHEREAS, The Congress of the United States has attached to many bills dealing with military assistance, aid, trade and loans what has become known as "the Harkin Amendment" and the "Fraser Amendment" (that assistance in these forms by the United States shall be withheld to nations where there is evidence of "consistent patterns of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights, or torture, or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, prolonged detention without charges and trials, and other flagrant denial of the human rights of life, liberty, or the security of the person" unless it can be shown that the assistance will "directly benefit needy people").

THEREFORE, because of these overwhelming concerns for the human rights of all of God's children, the Eleventh General Synod makes the following resolutions for action:

#### RUMANIA

RESOLVED, that the 11th General Synod of the United Church of Christ supports the legitimate strivings of minorities in the Socialist Republic of Rumania with respect to the freedom to exercise their fundamental human rights and cultural freedom and urges the World Council of Churches and the World Alliance of Reformed Churches to continue to assert the facts in regard to human

rights and cultural freedom violations of minorities in Rumania (including the recent earthquake damages of the Reformed Church in Transylvania) and to assure the implementation of their constitutional rights with respect to fundamental human rights and cultural freedom, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Eleventh General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges the government of the United States to follow its stated policy of monitoring the human rights practices of nations while reviewing the most favored nation status, and that if the Socialist Republic of Rumania continues to restrict the freedom of its minorities and does not respond to the specific actions stated above, then the 11th General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges the government of the United States to terminate 1975 United States/Rumanian Trade Agreement and the most-favored nation status of the Socialist Republic of Rumania.

#### PHILIPPINES

RESOLVED, that we deplore the suppression of human rights in the Phillipines, calling upon the United States Government to withdraw economic, military and other assistance to the Philippine government by communicating this concern to President Jimmy Carter, United Nations Ambassador Andrew Young, Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, the United States Congress and other appropriate elected officials.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, as the U.C.C. addresses the fundamental issues of human rights

- (1) commends President Carter for his courage in lifting up these concerns for human rights in all parts of the world, and
- (2) supports Congressional efforts to attach the "Harkin" and "Fraser" Amendments to relevant legislation, and
- (3) supports the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and
- (4) calls upon all elements of the UCC; its national agencies, Conferences, Associations and local churches, to give careful study to both the content and to the question of American ratification and implementation of Human Rights Covenants and the Optional protocol, and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that the 11th General Synod direct the Executive Council to urge the UCC boards and Instrumentalities holding corporate stock portfolios to be conscientious and responsible stewards and work (where possible) with the Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility (ICCR), to review their portfolios to:

- (1) Identify those multinational corporations in the UCC portfolio that have operations and investments in countries with gross patterns of Human Rights violations.
- (2) review their corporate policies to determine the impact of these policies on the human rights and integrity of the workers in these countries.
- (3) work toward the change of any corporate policies or activities found to be illegal or unethical, at annual shareholders meetings, in direct discussions,

\*The Optional Protocol provides procedures for petition by individuals.

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and in testimony before appropriate government bodies.

RESOLVED, that the Office for Church in Society be directed to implement the priority by appointing a national advisory committee on human rights composed of persons with direct experience in local human rights actions to:

- (1) seek out resources and promote educational programs for local churches
- (2) advise national and local instrumentalities on bringing programs to local communities.
- (3) advise on the expenditures of the UCC in human rights programs.
- (4) draft a major pronouncement on Human Rights for the 12th General Synod
- (5) work in consultation with the Board for World Ministries and Homeland Ministries and CRJ and other national agencies.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Eleventh General Synod recognize our membership in Christ's church as a sign and call to join in solidarity with all peoples both here at home and abroad who suffer and are victimized by violations of human rights and do all in our power to ease their burden and to lift their spirits and their oppression.

It is estimated that \$10,000 per year will cover costs of Commission.

### 7. PAYMENT OF HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS FOR RETIRED MINISTERS, LAY WORKERS AND THEIR SPOUSES

Moderator Nace took over the chair.

Ms. Skinner called attention to the Overture "Payment of Health Insurance Premiums for Retired Ministers, Lay Workers and Their Spouses" (Advance Materials, Section II, pp. 122 and the printed Overture, item 5) and moved its adoption. It was

77-GS-69 VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod adopts "Payment of Health Insurance Premiums for Retired Ministers, Lay Workers and Their Spouses," as amended.

#### Payment of Health Insurance Premiums for Retired Ministers, Lay Workers and Their Spouses

WHEREAS, There are a variety of plans for payment of premiums in the Health Insurance Program for retired ministers and their spouses, *age 65 and over*, by the Conferences and in some Conferences no payments at all, and no present plan for lay workers and their spouses;

RESOLVED, That in the interest of an equitable and uniform policy, the Eleventh General Synod directs the Executive Council to provide for a study that would thoroughly research the matter as a total UCC responsibility to its retired ministers, lay workers, and their spouses, and present a recommendation for a uniform policy to the Twelfth General Synod for its consideration.

It was noted in accordance with standing Rule 16 that a cost estimate for this study would be \$10,000 to \$15,000.

### 8. TOWARD A NEW URBAN AGENDA

The Chairperson called attention to the Resolution "Toward a New Urban Agenda" (Item 6, printed materials,

and the Overture) and moved its adoption. It was seconded and

77-GS-70 VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod adopts the Overture "Toward a New Urban Agenda," as amended.

#### Toward a New Urban Agenda

*"They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastation of many generations."*

ISAIAH 61:4

#### INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this overture is 1) to begin a process by which the United Church of Christ can reaffirm its historic ministry in, to, and for the city, 2) to consolidate the social policy of the church in such a way as to bring fresh focus on the current conditions of human living, and, 3) to develop a procedure whereby the diverse ministries of the church can be integrated to address the complex problems facing Urban America.

From Paul's journeys to the cities of the biblical world, through the Reformation in the cities of Europe, to the U.C.C. priorities on the cities of the last decade, this urban agenda continues a long term commitment of the faithful to urban people. Throughout this tradition, many theologians have held that the church is the soul of civilization, and that any civilization that does not love its cities cannot long survive.

In our age, we see ourselves as a people of God whose destiny is 20th Century urban America. The membership of our church represents a broad cross section of the American people. We are middle class, poor and affluent. We come from different ethnic, racial and cultural backgrounds. We live in towns, cities, suburbs, and rural areas. Yet, whatever the various settings and circumstances of our lives, we are a people bound together by a culture, a political order, and an economy which are dominated by urban patterns of life. Our cities, on the one hand, continue to gather, store, exchange, and disseminate, as does no other place, the goods, the knowledge, the wealth, the memories and the hopes of humanity. On the other hand, precisely in these centers, we know that poverty persists, inequity is rampant, injustice continues, and a sense of powerlessness infects the soul of many who at one time felt hope.

In this situation, our commitment to work for social justice under God arises from the awareness that we ourselves are partners in suffering so long as we live in a society which oppresses any of our brothers and sisters. With the Prophet Isaiah, we believe that when we turn to one another rather than away from one another, "our healing shall spring up speedily." We hear also the New Testament calling to repentance, to a turning around, in preparation for the anticipated New Jerusalem.

With this hope and under that vision we call for a renewal of the Church's urban mission.

Be it resolved:

1. that the XI General Synod of the United Church of