

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

Christ calls for a renewal of urban mission for itself, its instrumentalities, agencies, conferences, and local churches;

2. that the Executive Council authorize a two year process of development, to be under the direction of the Board for Homeland Ministries, which shall:
  - a. review and evaluate all recent programs of the instrumentalities and agencies of the church which are pertinent to a renewal of urban mission and of the theological assumptions on which they rest;
  - b. analyze the prospects and strategies for the survival and vigor of the churches' presence and ministry in the cities;
  - c. review and consolidate all social policy positions now on record pertinent to these concerns as voted by the various branches of the church;
  - d. prepare a theologically grounded statement on the responsibilities of the church in and with the city for the 1980's; and on that basis,
  - e. make recommendations concerning the integration of future programs and priorities to the XII General Synod.
3. That this process be funded with a team assigned which shall consist of instrumentality, conference, and local church leadership with special competence in various issues and disciplines related to the city.

It was noted in accordance with Standing Rule 16 that an estimated cost would be \$40,000.

#### **9. UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST RETIREMENT INCOME SUPPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR LAY WORKERS**

Ms. Skinner called attention to an Overture "United Church of Christ Retirement Income Supplementation Plan for Lay Workers" (Advance Materials, Section II, p. 122-123) and the printed overture, and moved its adoption. It was seconded and

77-GS-71 VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod adopts "United Church of Christ Retirement Income Supplementation Plan for Lay Workers."

RESOLVED, The Eleventh General Synod of the United Church of Christ directs the Executive Council the Stewardship Council, and the pension Board to study the establishment of a Retirement Income Supplementation Fund for lay workers.

RESOLVED, That if such study indicates that establishment of a fund is feasible, the Fund be initiated at the earliest possible time.

It was noted in accordance with Standing Rule 16 that an estimated cost would be \$10,000-\$15,000.

#### **10. RESOLUTION ON NUCLEAR ENERGY**

The motion to adopt the "Resolution on Nuclear Energy" which replaced the resolution on "Ending the Proliferation of Nuclear Energy Plants in the U.S.A." was defeated.

##### **Resolution on Nuclear Energy**

Energy has always been related to economic growth. We recognize that there will be a continuing need for the

development of new energy sources in this country, and it must be accessible to all persons. Yet the current state of the development of nuclear energy, dictates suspending construction of nuclear plants until the currently known problems are resolved.

WHEREAS, Nuclear energy plants pose a threat to public safety as in the case of serious malfunctions.

WHEREAS, Nuclear plants pose a threat to the environment as in the case of disposal of nuclear waste.

WHEREAS, The production of plutonium by breeder nuclear power plants creates a surplus of plutonium that may be used in nuclear weapons,

THEREFORE, Be it resolved that the 11th General Synod requests the Board of Homeland Ministries Task Force on Christian Lifestyle and Ecology to continue the study of the energy crisis.

Be it further resolved that the 11th General Synod recommend to Congress that there be a moratorium on continued construction in nuclear energy plants until the problems of public safety, environmental dangers, and the potential for increasing the development of nuclear weapons are solved.

Be it further resolved, that the 11th General Synod affirm the efforts of government and industry to develop and commercialize other sources of energy—solar, wind, geothermal, etc.—and to conserve present energy sources.

Be it further resolved that the President of the United Church of Christ communicate these resolutions to the President of the United States, in person, and to appropriate committees of Congress.

#### **11. MINORITY REPORT ON HUMAN SEXUALITY**

The Moderator recognized Barbara Weller, (PSE), for the report, "A Minority Resolution on Recommendations in Regard to Human Sexuality." The report was read to the Synod.

The Moderator stated that the report would be included in the Minutes and will be mailed to the Conferences, Associations, and congregations of the United Church of Christ.

##### **A Minority Resolution on "Recommendations in Regard to Human Sexuality"**

WHEREAS 34% of the delegates to the Eleventh General Synod who voted negatively on "Recommendations in Regard to Human Sexuality Study"; and

WHEREAS "Human Sexuality: A Preliminary Study", the foundation for these Recommendations, was preliminary in nature; and

WHEREAS the Executive Council sent the Study to the Eleventh General Synod without recommendation, and it came to delegates too late for sufficient time for study; and

WHEREAS we feel it is important that local churches have opportunity to examine, discuss, and respond to the Study; and

WHEREAS it appears there is a limited theological, biblical, and ethical viewpoint reflected in the Study which does not characterize the diverse perspectives of the United Church of Christ; and