

There was discussion which included an alternate motion to finish the Division reports in the original order in which the Division reports were presented. The motion was defeated. The Agenda Committee's recommendation was adopted.

7. RESOLUTION DEPLORING THE VIOLATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS OF GAY AND BISEXUAL PERSONS

Clyde H. Miller, Chairperson of Division A, was recognized by Moderator Nace and moved the adoption of the "Resolution Deploring the Violation of Civil Rights of Gay and Bisexual Persons." The motion was seconded and there was discussion. Gary Bryant, (K-O), was recognized by Mr. Miller as the spokesperson for Division A on this issue. Mr. Bryant indicated that the Tenth General Synod declared its commitment by an overwhelming majority. The Division felt it very important to be clear about the issue in this resolution being justice.

Martin L. Bupp, (PSE), was recognized by the Moderator and moved to amend the motion by inserting a paragraph after the third paragraph which ends "... and exploit irrational fear, and" and the resolution to continue with the original fourth paragraph.

The motion was seconded and there was discussion. Charles L. Burns, Conference Minister of the Florida Conference indicated that the Florida Conference composed 3/10 of the total population of the state of Florida. The United Church of Christ has been on the line and visible in reaction to the recent activities in Dade County. Mineo Katagiri, Conference Minister of Northern California Conference, indicated that he and the United Church of Christ constituency were ashamed of the recent murders which have taken place in San Francisco as a result of the Dade County activities.

The discussion was brought to a close, and it was

77-GS-83a VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod adopts the amendment to the "Resolution Deploring the Violation of Civil Rights of Gay and Bisexual Persons."

"WHEREAS, the recent referendum in Dade County, Florida, represents a new reactionary movement which may eventually erode the civil liberties of all, and

"WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ in its heritage and in its theology has a commitment to compassion for, and liberation of, oppressed minorities."

A motion was made and seconded to insert "allegedly" in paragraph three following the words "... including murder, allegedly as a result ..." There was discussion and it was

77-GS-83a VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod amends paragraph three as follows:

"WHEREAS, gay and bisexual persons have become victims of violence, including murder, allegedly as a result of fanatical prejudice kindled recently by those who publicly espouse and exploit irrational fear; and"

Janet Lawhead, (PSE), was recognized by the Moderator and moved a substitute resolution:

"WHEREAS, the Tenth General Synod declared by an overwhelming majority its commitment to move toward an end to discrimination relating to sexual or

affectional preference while not taking a stand on the morality of the same;

Therefore, be it RESOLVED that:

1. We, the delegates of the Eleventh General Synod, reaffirm the action of the Tenth General Synod in its "Resolution on Civil Liberties Without Discrimination Relating to Sexual or Affectional Preference;"
2. We affirm Scripture as the authoritative guide to Christian Life and recognize that Scripture affirms only heterosexual and celebrate life styles;
3. We, while affirming civil rights, do not condone the practice of homosexuality as an alternate life style."

The motion was seconded and there was discussion. Upon being put to a vote the motion was defeated.

The discussion was brought to a close and it was

77-GS-83 VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod adopts the "Resolution Deploring the Violation of Civil Rights of Gay and Bisexual Persons as amended."

Resolution Deploring the Violation of Civil Rights of Gay and Bisexual Persons

WHEREAS, the Tenth General Synod declared by an overwhelming majority its commitment to an end to discrimination relating to sexual or affectional preference;

WHEREAS, In recent months we have witnessed the widespread violation of the civil rights of gay and bisexual persons in the name of Christianity;

WHEREAS, gay and bisexual persons have become victims of violence, including murder, allegedly as a result of fanatical prejudice kindled recently by those who publicly espouse and exploit irrational fear; and

WHEREAS, The recent referendum in Dade County, Florida represents a new reactionary movement which may eventually erode the civil liberties of all; and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ in its heritage and in its theology has a commitment to compassion for, and liberation of, oppressed minorities.

RESOLVED, that this Eleventh General Synod:

1. Reaffirms the action of the Tenth General Synod in its "Pronouncement on Civil Liberties Without Discrimination Relating to Sexual or Affectional Preference;"
2. Deplores the use of scripture to generate hatred, and the violation of civil rights of gay and bisexual persons; and
3. Calls upon individual members, local churches, associations, conferences and instrumentalities to continue to work for the enactment of civil rights legislation at the federal, state and local levels of government.

8. RESOLUTION ON SYNOD FREQUENCY

Mr. Miller was recognized by the Moderator and moved the adoption of the "Resolution on Synod Frequency." The motion was seconded and there was some discussion. An editorial correction was made changing "RESOLVED, That