

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

the Eleventh General Synod of the United Church of Christ . . . to read "RESOLVED That the Twelfth General Synod of the United Church of Christ . . ."

The discussion was brought to a close and it was

77-GS-84 VOTED: That the Eleventh General Synod adopts the "Resolution on Synod Frequency" as amended.

WHEREAS, The biennial meeting of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ has proven to be a viable vehicle for resourcing the whole church, enabling and educating the total ministry, enriching the fellowship, and coming to terms with the issues of the day ;

WHEREAS, the cost of the study proposed by Executive Council would be enormous, raising questions about the responsible stewardship of our monies, time, staff and abilities.

WHEREAS, the possibility of conversations with a denomination which meets biennially are imminent.

WHEREAS, there is always a call for the church to be open to the new moment which may be now and to the voices speaking in that moment, and

WHEREAS, there is the ever emerging and continuing need for a flow of conversation between the national agencies and instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ, its Conferences and local churches.

RESOLVED, that the Twelfth General Synod of the United Church of Christ continue to meet biennially as set forth in the Constitution and By-Laws of the United Church of Christ.

9. RESOLUTION ON FAMILY LIFE

Mr. Miller was again recognized by the Moderator and moved the adoption of the Resolution on Family Life and referred the delegates to the Advance Material, Section II, page 91-92. The motion was seconded and there was discussion. Richard Bailar, (FL), was recognized by Mr. Miller to speak to the resolution on behalf of Division A.

John H. Krueger, (I-K), moved an amendment to the resolution to delete item three in the resolved section of the resolution and that the remaining sentences be renumbered accordingly.

Delete: 3. Conduct a comprehensive, scientific study to learn how UCC families compare with the general sociological patterns in our society;"

The motion was seconded and there was discussion and it was

77-GS-85a VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod deletes item #3 from the "Resolution on Family Life."

The discussion on this issue was brought to a close and it was

77-GS-85 VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod adopts the "Resolution on Family Life" as amended.

Resolution on Family Life

WHEREAS, the 11th General Synod of the United Church of Christ receives with appreciation the Report on Family life submitted by the BHM and found on pages 91 and 92 of Section II of the Advance Materials and ;

WHEREAS, recognizing the diverse life styles in our nation and church, and;

WHEREAS, hearing the plea from many in the church for family life resource materials, therefore be it

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

1. Join all U.C.C. bodies in addressing the issues of family life from the Biblical-theological perspectives of covenantal relationships ;
2. Establish a research-resource center within the BHM for studying, developing, disseminating information and materials, and providing leadership personnel to the UCC constituent churches and judicatories ;
3. Consult with other agencies, especially those of the UCC, which are developing educational resources, and correlate preparation of family-life materials ;
4. Form a coalition of all UCC bodies and concerned citizens to initiate changes in social, governmental, and economic conditions which are destructive to family and community life.

This brought the Report of Division A to a close. Mr. Miller thanked the delegates of the General Synod for their actions on these issues.

10. HEALTH CARE IN BLACK COMMUNITIES

Franklin Thomas, Chairperson of Division B, was recognized by the Moderator and moved that the resolution on "Health Care in Black Communities" be removed from the table. The motion was seconded and when put to a vote it was carried. Mr. Thomas again referred the delegates to the Advance Materials, Section II, pages 131-134. He then deferred the discussion to Walter Anders, (FL), who proposed a substitute resolution on Health Care in Black Communities. The motion was seconded and there was discussion. Marvin Morgan of the Business Committee was recognized by the Moderator and indicated that the financial implications for this resolution were estimated to be approximately \$10,000.

A motion was made and seconded to refer this substitute resolution on "Health Care in Black Communities" to the Executive Council for further study. There was discussion and upon being put to a vote the motion was defeated.

The discussion on the substitute resolution was brought to a close and it was

77-GS-86 VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod adopts the substitute resolution "Health Care in Black Communities."

Resolution on Health Care in Black Communities

WHEREAS, Black oriented health care institutions serving poor and indigent people of the inner city and rural America (including those related organically to the United Church of Christ) is a critical need requiring special ministry ;