

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 5

Discussion was brought to a close and it was

77-GS-92 VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod adopts the "Overture on Inclusive Language."

Because of the intensity of the discussion, voting was perceived to be extremely close, thus a Division of the House was called. The Tellers were called to count the votes of the House.

Moderator Nace indicated the voting results: Total number of votes counted was 643. There were 353 Yes votes and 290 No votes. The motion carried.

Tom Evans, (WI), made a motion which was seconded and it was

77-GS-92a VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod notes that the Division of the House focused on items #3 of the Overture regarding the creation of a new hymnal.

Overture on Inclusive Language

1. The Eleventh General Synod directs the Advisory Commission on Women in Church and Society, in consultation with the Executive Council and with ethnic constituency groups in the United Church of Christ, to develop guidelines for intentionally inclusive language when referring to people and for utilizing a multiplicity of ways of referring to our relationship with God and that which we experience as God.
2. The Eleventh General Synod directs the Executive Council to establish a means of reviewing (before publication and/or use) all materials published by the United Church of Christ and used officially by United Church of Christ agencies to insure that the guidelines regarding intentionally inclusive language are implemented.
3. The Eleventh General Synod directs the Executive Council to begin the process which will result in the creation of a new official hymnal which would follow the guidelines for intentionally inclusive language. A progress report shall be made to the Twelfth General Synod.

This brought the Report of Division E to a close. Ms. Clough thanked the delegates for their work involved with these issues.

18. RESOLUTION FROM THE FLOOR ON THE STATEMENT OF FAITH

Malcolm C. Bertram, Jr., (NY), moved the following motion from the floor of General Synod. The motion was seconded and there was discussion.

Upon being brought to a vote, it was

77-GS-93 VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod adopts the "Resolution on the Statement of Faith and Inclusive Language."

WHEREAS, human beings attempting to share the Word of God inevitably must struggle with the inadequacy of language to convey the fullness of their understandings; and

WHEREAS, language changes as those who use it find new meanings for old words and old meanings in new words; and

WHEREAS, the Word of God is changeless but our attempts to communicate it in our words can and should change when we become aware that they do not carry our meaning to those with whom we speak and worship; and

WHEREAS, failure to use words which communicate the Word of God may create barriers between people, though they can never create barriers because those relationships between people and God transcend our language,

Therefore be it:

RESOLVED, that the Eleventh General Synod in loving gratitude for being led to greater faithfulness to an inclusive Gospel, accepts one of the last gifts to the United Church of Christ made by our late President Robert V. Moss, Jr. and recommends his rewording of the United Church of Christ Statement of Faith to the local churches, Associations, and Conferences for their study, use, and response through the Office for Church Life and Leadership, which will report to the Twelfth General Synod.

Walter Brueggemann, (MO), indicated that he was not concerned about the statement which Robert V. Moss, Jr. drafted, but was concerned about the language he used. He made a motion which was seconded and discussed

Scott Libbey, Iowa Conference Executive, indicated that the Executive Council had committed itself to a similar mission and also committed themselves to bringing that information to the Twelfth General Synod.

The discussion was brought to a close and it was

77-GS-94 VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod requests that the Office for Church Life and Leadership, in addition to receiving feedback from local congregations, designate a group of competent persons to scrutinize the Statement of Faith as revised by Robert V. Moss, Jr. from a theological perspective, assess the feedback, and make appropriate recommendations to the Executive Council.

The Tuesday afternoon session of the Eleventh General Synod was adjourned by Moderator Nace at 6:00 p.m. He noted that the evening session would reconvene at 8:00 p.m.

TUESDAY EVENING, JULY 5

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Eleventh General Synod of the United Church of Christ was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by Moderator Nace. Mr. Nace reminded the delegates that there was much work to do in a short period of time. Mr. Nace then introduced Tom Eckert, Chairperson of Division F.

2. EVANGELISM—SEARCH FOR FAITH ISSUE

Mr. Eckert spoke briefly on the importance of this issue. After brief discussion, a motion was made and it was

77-GS-95 VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod adopts the Report on Evangelism and the Search for Faith" as amended.