

The Moderator recognized Secretary Joseph Evans who referred to his report in Advance Materials, Section I, pages 5-10 and made additional comments. He stated that every biennium he has had a problem in how to make this report since many of the tasks assigned the Secretary are repetitive and routine, and must be performed from biennium to biennium. This does not allow for much variation in the report. However, since half of the delegates are new to General Synod the material in the printed report is new and indicates the wide range of activities and responsibilities of the Office of the Secretary.

Mr. Evans reported on some of his other responsibilities made by the President of the Church and the Executive Council, including serving as staff to the Program Planning Committee of the Twelfth General Synod and as an interpreter of national policies and programs to Conference, Association and Pastor's meetings, and to local churches. He also shared some comparative statistics concerning church and membership gains and losses over the past biennium as reflected in the Year Books. He indicated that in spite of losses in churches and membership there has been an increase in the total and per capita giving to Our Christian World Mission and in giving for all purposes in the United Church of Christ.

The Moderator recognized the Director of Finance and Treasurer, Charles Lockyear who referred to his report in Advance Materials, Section II, pages 72-75. Mr. Lockyear called attention to two additional reports: 1) the 1979 Year Book on page 484 for the first time reports a ten year summary of Year Book financial reports and the effect of ten years of inflation; a report of the 17/76 Achievement Fund, which is a reprint from Keeping You Posted, is available for distribution.

The Moderator led the General Synod in expressing appreciation to the Officers of the Church for their good work on behalf of the United Church of Christ.

3. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CONTINUED

The Moderator recognized George Wm. Myers, Jr., Chairperson, for a continuation of the report of the Executive Council.

4. COUNCIL FOR AMERICAN INDIAN MINISTRY FUNDING

Mr. Myers referred to Advance Materials, Section I, page 30, to the recommendation of the Executive Council for the continued funding of the Council for American Indian Ministry, indicating that this is the result of a directive of the Eleventh General Synod that the Executive Council study the funding for CAIM. Mr. Myers moved the recommendation of the Executive Council, and it was

79-GS-17 VOTED: The Twelfth General Synod directs that financial support for the Council for American Indian Ministry be continued in the NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING and that the Council for American Indian Ministry be guaranteed \$200,000 or one third of the net total of the offering, which ever is larger.

5. REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR ECUMENISM

Mr. Myers introduced Mrs. Margery Weed, Chairperson, for the Report of the Council for Ecumenism. Mrs. Weed

narrated an audio-visual report of the Council with the theme 'Break down the walls that separate us and unite us in a single body,' affirming the commitment of the United Church of Christ in a theological affirmation and call to the whole Church and the Communion to which we belong, to the task of giving full witness to the continuing process of uniting in ways known and to be made known to us. Through the Council for Ecumenism we are seeking movement toward a full expression of the Church's oneness in Christ. We are seeking participation in ecumenical activities at all levels of the church, local, state, national, and world. Our goal is to clarify and strengthen the ecumenical witness of the United Church of Christ. This is done through the World Council of Churches, the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, a merger of the International Congregational Council and the Alliance of Reformed Churches, the National Council of Churches of Christ, the Consultation on Church Union, through the ecumenical relationships and activities of the national agencies of the United Church of Christ, through the work of United Church of Christ missionaries around the world, and by President Post as the Ecumenical Officer of the United Church of Christ. Mrs. Weed also reported on the Robert V. Moss Memorial Fund and the purposes for which it was established, and the activity of the Joint Working Group to implement exploratory conversations between the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ.

6. ANTOINETTE BROWN AWARD PRESENTATION

The Moderator invited President Post to present the Antoinette Brown Award to two outstanding women ministers, the Rev. Alice B. Snow and the Rev. Yvonne B. Delk. He said:

"This is a special moment and those who have attended previous Synods know how special it is. The Antoinette Brown Awards were initiated at the 10th General Synod upon the 150th anniversary of the birth of Antoinette Brown, who was the first woman ordained in the United States. She was ordained by the Congregational Church in South Butler, N.Y. in 1853. Active in both the anti-slavery movement and the women's rights movement throughout her life, she lived to be 97 years old and a mother of 6, and the author of 10 books. Her last pastorate was begun at the age of 75. In response to criticism of her outspoken ministry she once said, "My mission is to preach the God of love and creativity and adventure. My God is a God who frees people."

"In that pioneering spirit and in honor of all women who seek to serve God in the ordained ministry within the United Church of Christ, a group of lay and ordained women were asked by me to select this Synod's award recipients from a host of recommendations.

"I would like now, therefore, to present the Third Antoinette Brown Awards to the following two outstanding women in ministry.

"The first award goes to a clergywoman from Arizona. Born in Winchester, Massachusetts, she graduated from Smith College, magna cum laude, and from Andover Newton Theological School, in 1934, where she was first in her class; the same year she was ordained. She has served