

## MONDAY MORNING, JUNE 25

of freedom of religion, speech, press, assembly and of petition for the redress of grievances, including the right of workers to organize for collective bargaining and to resort when necessary to work stoppages in their quest for fair compensation and working conditions.

3. Calls upon the people of our nation to pursue the efforts to seek ratification of the multilateral United Nations human rights treaties which have been approved by the United Nations, signed by the President of the United States, and submitted to the U.S. Senate for ratification.
4. Calls upon the people of our nation to urge the President of the United States to sign the United Nations Optional Protocol on Civil and Political Rights (provides procedures for petition by individuals) and submit it to the U.S. Senate for ratification.

The Twelfth General Synod of the United Church of Christ requests the President of the Church to communicate this Pronouncement to the President and the Congress of the United States, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and the National and World Councils of Churches and their respective member communions.

### 11. RESOLUTION ON GASOLINE SHORTAGES AND POTENTIAL VIOLENCE

The Moderator recognized the Rev. H. Daehler Hayes

(PSE) on a point of personal privilege who moved to suspend the Standing Rules to allow the introduction of a Resolution on Gasoline Shortages and Potential Violence. The Moderator declared that when the motion was put to a vote it lost. A division of the house was called for and the Moderator declared the motion lost on a count of 243 Yes and 316 No votes.

### 12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Secretary Evans gave the announcements.

### 13. MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR ARTHUR DOUGLAS GRAY

The Moderator indicated that following the service of worship the General Synod would be in recess until 1:30 P.M. Chaplain Kenneth B. Smith was recognized and led the General Synod in a Memorial Service celebrating the life and ministry of the Rev. Arthur Douglas Gray. Participating in the service were Secretary Joseph H. Evans, Mr. Andrew Miller, Deacon, Park Manor Church, Chicago, Ill., the Rev. Fred G. Traut, Chicago Metropolitan Association Minister, the Rev. Reuben A. Sheares, Director, Office for Church Life and Leadership, the Rev. Charles E. Cobb, Executive Director, Commission for Racial Justice, President Avery D. Post, the Rev. W. Sterling Cary, Conference Minister, Illinois Conference, Moderator Milton Hurst, and the Rev. Clyde H. Miller, President, Boston City Missionary Society.

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### 1. CALL TO ORDER AND WORSHIP

The General Synod was called to order at 1:30 P.M. by Moderator Milton Hurst.

Mr. Hurst called on the Rev. Frank Chong (HI) who led the Synod in worship assisted by Ms. Pamela Odo-Goto and Mr. Dave Seid. The Rev. Joe King gave the closing prayer.

### 2. BIBLE STUDY

The Moderator recognized Dr. Walter Brueggemann to lead the General Synod in a period of Bible Study. Dr. Brueggemann referred the delegates to the Bible Studies, number 9, page 23 which had been mailed to the delegates in the first General Synod mailing, and to I Corinthians 14:1-12 which deals with the subject of speaking in tongues. Dr. Brueggemann read the scripture and reflected on its meaning and concluded with the singing of "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing."

### 3. RESOLUTION ON THE DEATH PENALTY

The Moderator reminded the General Synod that in the morning session an Order of the Day had been established for this time to consider a resolution on the Death Penalty. He recognized the Rev. John McFadden (CAC), Chairperson of Section B. Mr. McFadden referred to the documents relating to the death penalty issue and moved the adoption of the Resolution on the Death Penalty as submitted by Section B. He requested that the Rev. Lawrence Reimer (FL) be recognized to speak to the resolution on behalf of Section B. Mr. Reimer spoke about the resolution indicating the process by which it had been developed to its present form.

Ms. Debbie Farrall (NE) was recognized and moved to amend the resolution by deleting the words "its brother-in-Christ and United Church of Christ member, Robert Graham, Governor of Florida" from the first "Be It Resolved" sentence and substituting the words "the Governor of Florida and other appropriate authorities"; in the second "Be It Resolved" sentence, following the words "communicate directly with," to delete the word "the" and insert the words "our brother in Christ and United Church of Christ member, Robert Graham,"; to substitute the word "our" for "its" in the third line of the sentence; and the last section in the last sentence to delete the words "our brother-in-Christ, Robert Graham and our brothers and sisters on death row in hopes we may end further legalized killing" and substitute the words "our brothers and sisters on death row and those who enact and enforce the laws which legalize killing." It was agreed to include this amendment in the resolution. There was discussion, and it was

79-GS-32 VOTED: The Twelfth General Synod adopts the Resolution on the Death Penalty as amended:

#### RESOLUTION ON THE DEATH PENALTY

WHEREAS the Seventh, Ninth and Eleventh General Synods of the United Church of Christ have declared their opposition to the death penalty as a means of restorative justice; and

WHEREAS such opposition is based on our understanding of the Christian Faith and the New Testament call to redemptive love, mercy, and sanctity of life; and

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WHEREAS the death penalty has now been reinstated in thirty-five states resulting in 520 people being confined to death row—132 of whom reside in the Florida State Prison; and

WHEREAS it has been demonstrated that the death penalty is applied discriminately toward Blacks, Hispanics, Native Americans; and

WHEREAS ninety percent of men and women on death row could not afford an attorney; and

WHEREAS executions have been resumed recently in Florida; and

WHEREAS we are concerned about possible executions of hundreds of persons in this nation over the next few years; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED: The Twelfth General Synod of the United Church of Christ reaffirms its opposition to the death penalty, and calls upon the Governor of Florida and other appropriate authorities to cease the authorization of additional executions in Florida, and further calls upon governors of all states to refrain from the authorization of executions;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Twelfth General Synod requests its President to continue to try to communicate directly with our brother-in-Christ and UCC member, Robert Graham, Governor of Florida, on our behalf expressing deep pastoral concern and moral anguish over the Governor's role in inspiring the resumption of executions in this country; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED all General Synod delegates and visitors from those states wherein the death penalty currently exists are encouraged to petition their governors and state legislators to reconsider and review those existing statutes which legalize the killing of human beings; and

BE IT ALSO FURTHER RESOLVED the Twelfth General Synod recognize the failure of the Church to affect the moral climate of this nation on this matter where polls indicate a majority of the people both endorse and support capital punishment; and that it enable its instrumentalities and agencies to develop additional resources needed to educate and organize the U.C.C. constituency on this issue; and that the Conferences be encouraged to assist local churches and individual members of the United Church of Christ to engage in serious ethical reflection and prayer-guided action toward the eradication of legalized execution and the creation of a more just and humane society. We will continue to offer our prayers on behalf of our brothers and sisters on death row and those who enact and enforce the laws which legalize killing.

#### 4. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PRONOUNCEMENT ON REVERSING THE ARMS RACE

The Moderator recognized Ms. Carol Bergmann (MO), Chairperson of the Committee on Reversing the Arms Race for the report. Ms. Bergmann moved the adoption of the Pronouncement on Reversing the Arms Race as revised and introduced Mr. Fred Tilinski (MO) a member of the committee to speak to the report. Mr. Tilinski noted the changes in the revised document and commented on the significance of the Arms race.

Mr. James Jackson (IS) was recognized and moved to amend the report by adding a paragraph 8: "Calls upon our government and all governments of the world to work together to reduce the danger of a nuclear holocaust by limiting and eliminating such forms of warfare. In addition, we urge cooperative action to halt the development of chemical or other form of human destruction." It was agreed to include this amendment as a part of the report.

Mr. Allan Hitchcock (CAC) was recognized and moved to amend the report by adding a paragraph 9: "Calls upon our government to establish a national center for research and training in peaceful methods of conflict resolution." A division of the house was called for to determine the vote. The amendment was adopted by a vote of 326 Yes to 268 No and will be included in the report.

The Rev. Alexander Havadtoy (CA Sy) was recognized and moved to amend the report by adding a paragraph 10: "Calls upon the national government to prohibit the sale of high technology to our adversaries which would be used for military purposes." There was discussion and upon being put to a vote the Moderator declared the motion lost.

The Rev. Kendall C. Baker (SW) was recognized and moved to amend the report by adding a paragraph 10: "Calls upon the President of the United Church of Christ to communicate to the President of the United States and to the Congress that the Twelfth General Synod of the United Church of Christ is opposed to the reinstatement of Selective Service Registration." It was agreed to include this amendment as a part of the report.

Ms. Laura Gilman (ME) was recognized and moved to amend the report by changing the wording in lines 25-27 to read: "Calls upon the local churches, associations, and conferences to study the ongoing impact of military spending in their communities, to affirm their responsibility and power to question national priorities and to support and engage in dialogue with those who speak in Christian conscience through the withholding of tax monies allocated for military use." There was discussion and upon being put to a vote the Moderator declared the motion lost.

There was no further discussion on the main motion, and it was

79-GS-33 VOTED: The Twelfth General Synod adopts the Pronouncement on Reversing the Arms Race as amended:

#### THE PRONOUNCEMENT ON REVERSING THE ARMS RACE

*We as Christians affirm our faith that*

God's will and way for the whole human family are shown in Scripture, tradition, and right reason; that as covenanted people of God, we are called by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ to a ministry of reconciliation, "for he is our peace who has made us one" (Ephesians 2);

As we say in our Statement of Faith, God calls us to be "servants in the service of others" and "to proclaim the good news to all the world and resist the powers of evil"; and

"God bestows upon us the Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the Church of Jesus Christ" and "promises to all who trust . . . courage in the struggle for justice and peace"