

- 6) Urges the United Church Board for World Ministries, Stewardship Council, Office of Communication and the Commission for Racial Justice to designate staff to carry responsibility for policy and program advocacy for women and to join the Interstaff Team.
- 7) Directs the Coordinating Center to report annually to the Executive Council and biennially to the General Synod to evaluate the progress of the United Church of Christ in addressing the concerns of women and eliminating sexism and to bring recommendations to the Sixteenth General Synod as to how the United Church of Christ will carry out advocacy and program development for women in the future.
- 8) Directs that funding for the Coordinating Center be established through normal budgeting procedures as a separate item in the Executive Council budget beginning January 1, 1980.
- 9) Terminates the Advisory Commission on Women in Church and Society on December 31, 1979, with appreciation to those who have been its members.

#### 7. COMMUNICATION TO GOVERNOR ROBERT GRAHAM

The Moderator recognized President Post who reported that the following communication had been sent to Governor Robert Graham of Florida:

25 June, 1979

The Honorable Robert Graham, Governor  
State of Florida  
Tallahassee, Florida

My dear Governor Graham:

The Twelfth General Synod of the United Church of Christ with 703 delegates is meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana. It has just reaffirmed its opposition to the death penalty "as a means of restorative justice."

The delegates have approved a resolution that asks you, a member of our Church, "to cease authorization of additional executions" in Florida.

We are acutely aware that the death penalty has been reinstated in 35 states, and that 520 people are now confined on death row. Therefore, the resolution directed a similar plea to other governors. It also urged delegates to petition their governors and state legislators "to reconsider and review those existing statutes which legalize the killing of human beings."

The resolution also points out that the death penalty is applied "discriminately" against minorities and that 90 percent of those on death row "could not afford an attorney."

We prayerfully urge you to act in accordance with this resolution.

Sincerely yours,

Avery D. Post  
President

#### 8. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

The Moderator recognized Mrs. Nana Rinker (SD), Chairperson of the Committee on New Church Development for the report. Mrs. Rinker referred the delegates to Advance Materials, Section II, pages 39-40, 58-60; and moved the adoption of the report. She called on the Rev. Harry Myers (CT) to speak to the issue on behalf of the committee. There was extended discussion on various aspects of the report including the relationship of the proposal to actions of prior General Synods.

The Rev. Garnett Adams (PSE) was recognized and moved to amend the report by the addition of the following new paragraph to be inserted on the second page of the report: "The Twelfth General Synod recommends that every effort be made by the staff members of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, Conferences, and Associations working with new churches being started with financial and/or staff help from this campaign to have all such churches organized with the principal name of United Church of Christ and that this recommendation be included in any future guidelines developed for New Church Development." It was agreed to include this amendment as a part of the report.

Ms. Ann Lee Clough (NY) was recognized and moved to amend the report "that New Initiatives in Church Development become the substitute title for New Church Development throughout the body of the report." It was agreed to accept the substitute title and to include it as a part of the report.

Ms. Clough was recognized and moved to amend the report to change the first goal for action to read: "to increase the number and strength of local churches in the United Church of Christ through a vigorous program of developing new congregations; and to help existing congregations which are in the process of redefining their institutional form or addressing new opportunities for ministry." It was agreed to accept this amendment as a part of the report. It was

79-GS-35 VOTED: The Twelfth General Synod adopts the report of the Committee on New Initiatives in Church Development as amended:

#### NEW INITIATIVES IN CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

The following report and recommendation focuses on the need to expand significantly work in the area of New Initiatives in Church Development on behalf of the wider mission of the United Church of Christ. It has been developed during the past year in close collaboration with UCC conference and instrumentality executives, and it has been endorsed by the Stewardship Council, the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries and other constituent groups.

#### *I. Theological Imperative*

The time has come for a vigorous effort by the United Church of Christ to establish new congregations. Ours is an age of people on the move, people searching for certainty in the midst of rapidly-changing values and life styles. It is time to create new communities of faith within which the Spirit of Christ may contend with the spirit of the times. It is time for the United Church of Christ to renew its witness on the fron-

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tiers of the world that lies before us.

By creating new congregations, we embody the Good News. As God's love for the world led to Christ's presence in our history, so our response to Christ impels us to establish communities of faith in every time and place. By forming congregations, we declare that we live as the body of Christ under the authority of the mind of Christ.

It is within the community of the congregation that we hear and study the scripture and we celebrate the communion of the Lord's table. In the congregation we experience grace and we seek to live in love and charity with one another. The congregation is a caring community into which all people are invited to participate; and the congregation is a mission community, reaching out into the world, demonstrating through word and action God's love for all people.

As Christians we are called not only to be in the church but also to extend the church. Christ's commission to us is to make disciples of all nations. By helping to establish new congregations, we engage in an act of witness and anticipation. We witness to Christ's presence and mission in the world; we anticipate the fulfillment of God's purpose in history.

Our churches are formative institutions in the life of this nation. Through their active presence they instill a sense of moral direction far beyond their organizational boundaries. They contribute to the ongoing tasks of building a just society and shaping a humane culture.

A new initiative in church development agenda for the 1980's depends on the determination of the whole church to extend its life throughout the nation. The future of the church and the character of American life depend in significant measure on our capacity to establish new churches which are theologically vital, socially responsible and institutionally strong.

### II Background and History

New Initiatives in Church Development has been at the heart of the Church's mission throughout our history. The Church has survived and renewed itself over the past two centuries because of the efforts of those who have cared for its future. Through the valiant efforts of the apostles "the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was built up; and walking in the fear of the Lord and the comfort of the Holy Spirit it was multiplied." (Acts 9:31)

Within the heritage of the United Church of Christ we discover an endless procession of people dedicated to expanding the boundaries of the church. In 1746, the Palatinate Consistory was able to send a German-speaking minister to America, Michael Schlatter, who began the constructive period of church formation in Pennsylvania. Between 1800 and 1826, the Connecticut Missionary Society sent out over 200 missionaries and organized over 400 churches in the expanding areas of the west.

As the frontier retreated, new church development work took on elements of a carefully constructed strategy. In 1886, in celebration of 50 years of Congregationalism in Iowa, a vision for the future was announced:

In fifty years Iowa will have five million people. We

ought to be represented at the end of the home missionary century by an average of four self-supporting churches to each one of our hundred counties. Each of these churches should have a following of membership and attendance of five hundred people. There will doubtless, be churches then receiving missionary aid, with an aggregate following of fifty thousand; so that in 1936 we ought to have a Congregational constituency of 250,000 souls. This is not an unreasonable increase. We certainly should be so moderate a share of five million population.

At about the same time, in 1883, John Zimmermann, President of the Evangelical Synod, declared that home mission is a "sacred duty . . . There are seven million Germans in the United States. If we divided them up in congregations of five hundred souls each, we would have 14,000 German Congregations." By 1898 Evangelical church extension work was consolidated in the Board of Home Missions.

By the early twentieth century, the ecumenical Home Mission Council acknowledged the essential role of denominations in home mission work. Denominations were recognized as particularly effective in carrying traditions, providing leadership, stabilizing inter-church relationships, assuming organizational responsibility and proclaiming a distinctive witness in the mix of social and ethnic differences that characterized the American people.

The last major effort to establish new churches occurred following World War II. By 1960, the UCBHM was helping to establish 30 new churches each year. By the late 1960's the church's attention to new church starts had reached a low ebb.

Most recently, between October, 1977 and December 1978, the UCBHM and the conferences have joined together in starting 31 new churches in 17 conferences. These new starts include three black churches, two Hispanic churches and two Asian churches as well as churches in a wide variety of growing and changing areas.

Today, as we recognize once again the opportunity to extend the life of the church, we join the procession of those who have gone before us, those to whom we owe so much. Our commitment will become the heritage of those who follow.

### III The Current Situation

Church development activity has increased dramatically in the past several years. On the basis of current projections, the conferences and the UCBHM hope to be involved in 15 to 20 church starts a year over the next 10-year period.

The primary way by which we help to form new congregations today is by providing financial support for an organizing pastor and program needs until the congregation can become self-supporting. This support is called an *operating subsidy*. New church situations which require an operating subsidy are those in which new congregations are initiated or existing congregations undergo a clear redefinition of institutional form in response to substantial new opportunities. Examples of existing situations include churches in transitional communities and rural churches meeting the challenge of suburban growth. New churches are being started throughout the nation: in the towns and areas of

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metropolitan growth as well as in areas which have been rural; in the growing southern and western regions as well as in other regions experiencing population shifts; among immigrants from the Caribbean, Latin America and the Pacific Basin; among the growing population of blacks, especially in our cities. New initiatives in church development reflect the continuing commitment of the United Church of Christ to racial and ethnic diversity. In all these situations, the resources of the whole denomination are essential if the new church is to grow and prosper.

Expectations for self-support will vary depending on geographic and economic factors. While it is our express intention to start new, strong congregations it is also necessary, if we are faithful to our calling, to help support new and existing communities of faith where the capacity for self-support may be lower than usual, for example in the areas where UCC presence and witness are essential.

### IV Financial Challenge

The financial need for this work presents a new challenge to the United Church of Christ. Each new church presently requires, from UCBHM and conference sources, an average operating subsidy of at least \$75,000 over a five-year period. In most cases the Board for Homeland Ministries and the conferences divide those costs on a 50-50 basis, although the ratio may be negotiated in light of special needs. It is necessary in some situations to continue subsidy after the initial five-year covenant for an additional two to three years. Moreover, if the current high rate of inflation continues, the amount required for each new church will of necessity be greater than the present average, thereby reducing the number of new churches that can be aided.

*The operating subsidy advanced to new churches is used entirely for current local expenses.* Loans for purchase of land and erection of facilities are handled separately. The Board for Homeland Ministries has permanent revolving church loan funds which, together with conference funds designated for capital purposes, are available to the congregation once it decides upon the acquisition of property and facilities.

The number of new churches we will be able to start in the 1980's will depend upon the amount of new funding available to the UCBHM and the conferences. For example, at the rate of 15 new church starts a year, first year costs would total \$360,000 in addition to current continuing commitments. By continuing subsidies for a five-year period and adding 15 new starts each year, the total in the fifth year would be \$1,125,000. Thus the funds expended in any given year will reflect commitments for continuing support made in prior years.

### V Fund Raising

In order to meet this financial challenge a special fund-raising effort for new church development will be made throughout the United Church of Christ during the next two biennia. The Stewardship Council, in cooperation with the conferences and the UCBHM, will take the leadership in developing plans to raise such funds.

This effort will be different from a special offering like One Great Hour of Sharing or a special financial campaign like the 17/76 Achievement Fund. In this effort conference

leaders will have a primary role. The Stewardship Council will discuss suggested promotional proposals and materials with each conference, and will work with each conference to develop the detailed plans for that conference. The Stewardship Council will collaborate with the conferences in conducting training events, and will also provide printed and audio-visual resources.

While details are to be determined through individual consultations with each conference, it seems likely that the fund-raising effort will usually call for:

- a task force in each conference,
- a small committee in each congregation,
- a special approach to potential large-gift givers in each congregation,
- a personal challenge, in terms of a specific number of dollars, to each member.

### VI. Operational Guidelines

Project proposals and budgets will be approved by the conferences and the UCBHM on the basis of mutually agreed-upon guidelines. Current guidelines for church development include the following:

- Mutual sharing of policies and procedures by the conferences and the UCBHM,
- Advisement when changes in policies or procedures are contemplated.
- Mutual involvement in project development,
- Commitment to the institutional strength and mission of the United Church of Christ,
- Mutually established covenants and payment schedules in accordance with particular needs,
- Project evaluation at appropriate points throughout each project.

The results of this program for new church development will be to increase collaboration among the churches, conferences and instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ and to expand the wider mission of the Church.

The Twelfth General Synod declares New Initiatives in Church Development a major program effort of the United Church of Christ for the 1980's. We affirm that to be a Christian is to be nurtured in the context of community. It is within the community of the congregation that we hear and study the scripture and we celebrate the communion of the Lord's table. In the congregation we experience grace and we seek to live in love and charity with one another. The congregation is a caring community into which all people are invited to participate; and the congregation is a mission community, reaching out into the world, demonstrating through word and action God's love for all people.

Christians have a mission to serve those in need, but Christians also seek to share the redemptive community. Consequently, we affirm New Initiatives in Church Development as an essential task of the church. Furthermore, we do this recognizing that our vision is always informed, but not limited, by past or existing forms of the church. Therefore, the Twelfth General Synod adopts the following goals for action:

- 1) to increase the number of and strength of local churches in the United Church of Christ through a vigorous program of developing new congregations; and to help

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existing congregations which are in the process of redefining their institutional form or addressing new opportunities for ministry.

- 2) to increase the diversity of churches in the United Church of Christ, including (a) metropolitan and rural churches; (b) churches in the Southern and Western parts of the United States as well as other locations experiencing population shifts; (c) churches with ministries appropriate for the particular situations of immigrants from the Caribbean, Latin America, the Pacific Basin and Asia; and (d) churches for the growing population of Blacks, Native Americans and Hispanics, especially within our cities. This diversity will reflect the continuing commitment of the United Church of Christ to racial and ethnic ministries, and to leadership appropriate to the social and spiritual needs of these people.
- 3) to promote a special fund raising effort throughout the United Church of Christ during the next two biennia to increase the amount of funds available for leadership and program subsidy to achieve the preceding goals. The funds raised in each Conference will be divided with  $\frac{1}{3}$  retained by the Conference and  $\frac{2}{3}$  remitted to the Treasurer of the United Church of Christ.

The Twelfth General Synod requests that the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries develop and implement New Initiatives in Church Development according to the above goals.

The Twelfth General Synod recommends that every effort be made by the staff members of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, Conferences, and Associations working with new churches being started with financial and/or staff help from this campaign to have all such new churches organized with the principle name of United Church of Christ and that this recommendation be included in any future guidelines developed for New Initiatives in Church Development.

The Twelfth General Synod asks the Stewardship Council, in cooperation with the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries and the Conferences, to take the leadership in raising the necessary funds.

As the first steps in that fund-raising process the General Synod directs the Stewardship Council to:

- 1) hold consultations about the proposal with conference leaders in each Conference prior to November 1, 1979, and
- 2) Propose to the November meeting of the Executive Council, on the basis of information secured in these consultations, a dollar goal for this New Initiatives in Church Development effort.

(Based on a studied need for 15 new churches a year for the next 10 years, an estimated  $7\frac{1}{2}$  million dollars will be required).

- 3) Prepare and present to Executive Council a promotional budget, not to exceed 10% of the total proposed goal, to be funded from the  $\frac{2}{3}$  National portion.

In addition, the General Synod asks the Director of Finance and Treasurer to administer and distribute the funds according to a plan developed by the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries and the Executive Council, in consultation with the Conference.

### 9. SUNDAY OFFERING FOR NEW INITIATIVES IN CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

Moderator Hurst announced that the offering received at the service of worship, Sunday, June 24, 1979, totalled \$4,818.60 for New Initiatives in Church Development.

### 10. RESOLUTION ON FUEL SHORTAGES AND VIOLENCE

The Moderator recognized the Rev. Robert McNamara (MO) on a point of personal privilege who moved to suspend the Standing Rules to allow the introduction of a resolution on Fuel Shortages and 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 vote lost on a count of 273 Yes and 330 No votes.

### 11. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST/CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) CONVERSATIONS

The Moderator recognized Mr. Anthony Sawtell, (SW), Chairperson of the Committee on United Church of Christ/Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Conversations for the report. Mr. Sawtell referred the delegates to advance Materials, section II, noted the differences between the report of the Committee and the recommendations of the Executive Council, and moved the adoption of the report. Mr. Sawtell called on the Rev. Keith A. Karau (IL) to speak to the report on behalf of the Committee. Mr. Karau emphasized that the report is not a proposal for union. It believes with the Joint Working Group that by the two Churches living in covenant relationship and working on significant issues together new forms of Christian community will be experienced that will teach us about the nature and shape of the unity we seek.

There was discussion with delegates speaking in support of and against the report.

The Rev. S. William Tyson (PSE) was recognized and moved to amend the report by changing paragraph C of the report to read: "The General Assembly and the General Synod authorize the General Assembly and the General Synod to elect a steering group of ten persons from each denomination to lead and direct this six year period of work. The steering group will be accountable to succeeding General Synods and the Council on Christian Unity and the Council for Ecumenism." The Moderator declared that upon being put to a vote the motion was lost.

The Rev. Arthur Christofersen (IL) was recognized and moved to amend the report by referring it back to the Committee because in his judgement it was an illegal motion, and cannot be passed in its present form. The Moderator declared that upon being put to a vote the motion was lost. There was a discussion, and it was:

79-GS-36 VOTED: The Twelfth General Synod adopts the report of the Committee on United Church of Christ/Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Conversations:

#### REPORT OF UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST/CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) CONVERSATIONS

- I. Historical Review of Conversations Between the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ.