

MONDAY EVENING, JUNE 25

the Committee, to speak to the report. Mr. Gifford indicated that the report is basically taken from the report of the Executive Council with deletions and additions, and essentially says three things: 1) the study of Human Sexuality be continued, 2) the General Synod establish a task force whose purpose it would be to encourage the study of this issue and receive the Overtures and Resolutions that have been sent to this Synod, and 3) directs the task force to present to the Church a biblical and theological framework within which the study can take place. It is the intention of the Committee to allow time for the Church to seek for some kind of consensus on the issues related to this very complex and sensitive subject.

Mr. A. Gary Melville (MA) was recognized and moved to amend the report by the addition of a new section G at the end of the report to read "Recommends to Ministerial Standing Committee, Associations and Conferences acting as Associations that until the task force has completed its work and reported to the Fourteenth General Synod and some policy or guideline has been accepted by that Synod, that no avowed homosexual shall be ordained." There was discussion. The Moderator declared that upon being put to a vote the motion was lost.

Mrs. Barbara Weller (PSE) was recognized and moved to amend the report by adding in Section B the word "current" before the word "implementation" and to add a new section G at the end of the report to read: "The Twelfth General Synod requests the Instrumentalities and the Agencies withhold further program development based solely on the Eleventh General Synod actions 2-18 until a biblical and theological framework has been presented by the task force." There was discussion. The Moderator declared that upon being put to a vote the motion was lost.

The Rev. Max Stackhouse (MA) was recognized and moved to amend the report by adding to Section C3 the words, "and in other denominations struggling with comparable issues." It was agreed to include this amendment as a part of the report.

The Rev. Richard Bailer (FL) was recognized and moved to amend the report by the deletion of the words "all major" from the third line of section F. It was agreed to delete these words from section F.

The Rev. John Noonan (MO) was recognized and moved to amend the report by adding at the end of the first sentence of paragraph C after a comma the words "each report to be mailed to the delegates three months before the Synod convenes." It was agreed to include this amendment as a part of the report.

There was continued discussion, and it was

79-GS-40 VOTED: The Twelfth General Synod adopts the report on Human Sexuality as amended.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SEXUALITY

The Twelfth General Synod:

- A. Continues the study of human sexuality.
- B. Directs the Executive Council to continue its monitoring of implementation of General Synod XI sexuality actions by the assigned instrumentalities and agencies.
- C. Establishes a National Task Force to make an interim report to the Thirteenth General Synod and a final

report to the Fourteenth General Synod, each report to be mailed to the delegates three months before the General Synod convenes.

The task force will:

1. Encourage and facilitate the continuing study of human sexuality by all congregations, associations, conferences, and other groups within the church.
 2. Identify, test, and publicize various models of study undertaken by conferences, associations, congregations, and other groups within the church.
 3. Observe, evaluate, and monitor processes which continue the study of human sexuality in the United Church of Christ, and in other denominations struggling with comparable issues.
 4. Seek reports about such studies and circulate to the conferences information about these reports.
 5. Report regularly to the Executive Council.
 6. Present recommendations to the Fourteenth General Synod.
- D. Refers to the National Task Force for continuing study, clarification, and possible recommendations for policy development:
1. Actions 2-18, (77-GS-64), and "A Minority Resolution on Recommendations in Regard to Human Sexuality"
 2. *Human Sexuality: A Preliminary Study* and encourages, among other material, the study of additional resources, including *Issues In Sexual Ethics*, published by the United Church People for Biblical Witness.
 3. Overtures and resolutions to the Twelfth General Synod in the area of human sexuality.
- E. Directs the Executive Council, upon nomination by the President, to elect a Task Force of ten members for the Study of Human Sexuality. The Task Force will represent the diverse perspectives found within the United Church of Christ. An inter-staff team for contributed staff services under the direction of the Executive Council will provide staff assistance to the Task Force.
- F. Directs the task force to present a framework of Biblical and theological understanding, reflecting the diversity within the United Church of Christ and seeking comments from United Church of Christ theologians.

9. APPRECIATION TO THE UNITED CHURCH PEOPLE FOR BIBLICAL WITNESS

The Moderator recognized the Rev. William Baran (ME) who offered a motion in appreciation for the work of the United Church People for Biblical Witness, and it was

79-GS-41 VOTED: The Twelfth General Synod thanks heartily the work and efforts of the United Church People for Biblical Witness for their valuable and unselfish contribution of the book, *ISSUES ON SEXUAL ETHICS*.

10. EXPLANATION OF THE SECTION REPORTS

The Moderator recognized the Rev. John Bracke, Chairperson of the Agenda Committee, who explained the procedure for considering the Section reports. The pro-