

advanced systems of satellites and the terminal facilities for the sending and receiving of information is essential to the development of all nations, particularly those of the Third World;

WHEREAS allocation of frequencies within the electronic spectrum is a crucial element in world communications now and in the future;

WHEREAS the Third World nations do not have the trained personnel to deal with all the technical problems of advanced communication systems;

WHEREAS aid in bringing groups and individuals abreast of developments in communication conforms to the historic mandate of the Office of Communication and the missionary tradition of the United Church Board for World Ministries;

WHEREAS the Office of Communication and the Board for World Ministries are already assisting churches and governments to understand the problems and opportunities that are raised by the innovation of advanced communication technology;

THEREFORE the General Synod of the United Church of Christ endorses:

THAT the right of all peoples, especially those in Third World nations, to use and control modern communications technology is a major concern of churches through the world;

THAT churches should work individually and ecumenically to help the people and governments of Third World nations to take advantage of advanced communications technology, so those nations may develop communications systems that are appropriate to meet their needs;

THAT churches should monitor the proceedings of the World Administrative Radio Conference in the fall of 1979, and should study and react to treaty negotiations for implementation of the agreements reached in the Conference.

12. AFFIRMATIVE ACTION FOR UCC BOARDS AND DIRECTORATES

Mr. Bennett indicated that Section A will be making a report and recommendation on Affirmative Action for UCC Boards and Directorates. Therefore Section F will not make a report on this matter but its materials will be supporting material for the report of Section A.

13. RESOLUTION ON RACIAL JUSTICE

Mr. Bennett referred to the Section's recommendation on Racial Justice, referred to Section V on Referral of Ordinances and Resolutions to Sections and Committees, pages 1 and 2, moved the adoption of the resolution and called on Ms. Joyce Harmon (ME), a member of the Section, to speak to the resolution. Ms. Harmon stated that the resolution affirms the historical position of the United Church of Christ in its support of Racial Justice and raises the fact that we have not yet become a covenanting community. She indicated that the resolution is revised in structure but not in content from the original and speaks to the lack of Hispanic representation on our decision making bodies. It was

79-GS-43 VOTED: The Twelfth General Synod adopts the Resolution on Racial Justice;

RESOLUTION ON RACIAL JUSTICE

SUMMARY

The Twelfth General Synod reaffirms its commitment to racial justice and seeks to augment the fiscal, moral, and religious support of its racial constituencies: Blacks, Hispanics, Asians, Indians and Pacific Islanders.

BACKGROUND

The United Church of Christ historically has supported issues of racial justice through its Fourth, Fifth, Seventh, Eighth, and Tenth General Synods. Yet, a weakening commitment in church and society seems to be occurring. Public demonstrations by the Nazi party and the Ku Klux Klan are growing and becoming bolder. The judicial system in the Bakke case and the Weber case apparently is weakening the gains made in affirmation action.

After decades of proclaiming pluralism the United Church of Christ, a predominately white, middle-class organization, still is limited in its inclusion of racial minorities, e.g. theology, religious life and participation in ministry. Thus far the U.C.C. has failed to be inclusive in its involvement, staffing, and funding of ministry in Hispanic communities. Presently, there are no professional national Hispanic staff persons and only limited involvement on boards and instrumentalities.

The mutual involvement and pluralistic nature of the U.C.C. racial justice ministry is affirmed and noted. In this work the 12th General Synod commends the Commission for Racial Justice, Pacific and Asian American Ministries, Ministers for Racial and Social Justice, The Council for Hispanic Ministries, United Black Christians and the Council for American Indian Ministries.

WHEREAS, the church is called to be the body of Christ, inclusive, pluralistic, interdisciplinary, and universal; and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ is called to implement its mandate to be the body of Christ; and,

WHEREAS, "If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together." (I Corinthians 12:26)

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Twelfth General Synod calls upon national boards, agencies, instrumentalities, conferences, associations, local churches and individual members of the U.C.C. to acknowledge the urgency of racial justice issues and to develop strategies and programs in consultation with racial minority constituents to eradicate racism and racial injustice in church and society:

- a. by developing fair and realistic budgeting for the continuation and development of the ministries of the Commission for Racial Justice, Council for Hispanic Ministries, Pacific and Asian American Ministries, Council for American Indian Ministries, Ministers for Racial and Social Justice and United Black Christians;
- b. by implementing affirmative action policies in filling staff vacancies and board positions with special emphasis upon Hispanics;
- c. by affirming the viability, vitality and contribution of racial minority constituents;
- d. by educating its constituency and preparing channels for support of the affirmative action process in church and society.