

The Moderator declared these persons elected to their respective offices.

The Moderator recognized the Rev. Walter Brueggemann (MO) who questioned the placing of asterisks before the names of persons nominated from the floor for various positions. It was explained that the asterisks are an attempt to fulfill the provisions of Standing Rule 35 which states: "When there is a contest for a position, candidates' names shall appear in different sequence on groups of ballots and floor nominees shall be so identified." Mr. Brueggemann moved, there was discussion, and it was:

79-GS-49 VOTED: The Twelfth General Synod refers to the Committee on Structural Planning of the Executive Council to review the provisions of Standing Rule 35.

6. REPORT OF SECTION D—RESOLUTION: POLICY STATEMENT ON AGING

The Moderator recognized the Rev. Marilyn Stavenger (OH), Chairperson, for the report of Section D. Ms. Stavenger referred the delegates to the original resolution in Advance Materials, Section III, pages 36-37, indicating the only change is in the title of the resolution. She moved the adoption of the resolution and called upon Ms. Betty Cooke (WI) to speak to the resolution. There was discussion, and it was

79-GS-50 VOTED: The Twelfth General Synod adopts the Resolution: Policy Statement on Aging:

POLICY STATEMENT ON AGING

WHEREAS, the percentage of people over 65 in the U.S. has increased from 4% in 1900 to 11% in 1978, and will further increase to over 16% by 2025, and

WHEREAS, our traditions, institutions and policies are still not equipped to handle this new society which is being created in our midst, and

WHEREAS, older Americans are expected and even forced to "retire" from full participation in our work-oriented society for what is becoming 20 years of "leisure" at the end of their lives, and

WHEREAS, the most rapidly expanding new poverty group is the elderly, with large numbers not having enough to eat, lacking adequate housing, unable to afford the rapid rise in health care costs, and generally discovering a variety of ways that our society has not been designed to meet their needs, and

WHEREAS, the Church is made up of large numbers of older people (over 25% of the UCC membership is above 65) and should be providing leadership in developing a compassionate and relevant society,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Twelfth General Synod adopts the following Policy Statement:

We are all aging. Aging should be a time of expanding possibilities and choices. Instead, we live in a society which takes away power from older people, paternalizes our parents, and closes down options for our elders.

Aging is neither a disease nor a cause for discrimination or loss of social status. Older people, because of their lifelong contributions to society, are entitled to a number of basic rights. These include the right to employment, retirement income, food, housing, transportation and health care.

There should be no discrimination in employment because of age. Where older people are able and willing to work, programs and provisions should be developed to maximize work opportunities. Mandatory retirement should be abolished.

All older people should have an adequate income. This should include a guarantee of income above the poverty line, with a goal of raising this floor income level to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Intermediate Budget level for older retired persons (\$7,200 for a retired couple in 1977). Social Security should be mandatory, supported in part by general revenues, not discourage work, and have as its goal the providing (along with private pension plans) of a standard of living comparable to preretirement.

All older persons should have adequate housing, food and transportation. Where special needs exist, government policy and programs, working with the private and non-profit sectors, should insure food, housing and transportation for all to maximize independence and provide a continuum of care.

Universal, comprehensive, cost-controlled National Health Insurance should be enacted with the emphasis on prevention and health maintenance. Social services should be integrated into health services for older people to maximize independence.

A basic right is the right to serve as a responsible and participating member of society. All programs designed to meet employment, income, nutrition, housing, transportation and health needs should recognize this most basic right and work to enhance it.

7. RESOLUTION: CONTINUING CONCERN FOR THE AGING

Ms. Stavenger referred the delegates to Advance Materials, Section II, pages 163-164, noting the change from the original resolution in the title, and moved the adoption of the substitute Resolution: Continuing Concern for The Aging. There was discussion, and it was

79-GS—51 VOTED: The Twelfth General Synod adopts the Resolution; Continuing Concern for the Aging:

CONTINUING CONCERN FOR THE AGING

The Twelfth General Synod receives with joy the interim report on Aging submitted by the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries and commends the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, the Office for Church In Society, and other cooperating instrumentalities for activities undertaken during the last biennium.

WHEREAS, "Aging" was one of the ten priorities of the Eleventh General Synod.

WHEREAS, an evaluative report of the continuing ministry with and to the elderly by the UCBHM is to be made to the 13th General Synod.

WHEREAS, 25% of the UCC membership is over 65 and this proportion is projected to increase in the next two decades.

WHEREAS, the present resources of the UCC instrumentalities are inadequate to meet the priority needs of the Aging.

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WHEREAS, the Conference representatives who attended the regional meetings on Aging expressed a desire to increase programs and advocacy with and for the Aging.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Twelfth General Synod of the United Church of Christ

1. encourages these agencies to expand efforts in this area;
2. directs the Executive Council to provide for the continuing work of the UCC Advisory Committee on Aging with particular emphasis on the recommendations of the Eleventh General Synod:
 - A. developing a continuing education program for UCC clergy and laity to enable ministry with and to the Aging;
 - B. developing experimental ministries with and to the isolated elderly who live in urban and rural areas;
 - C. developing a program to combat negative images of the aged in mass communication media;
3. encourages every UCC Conference, instrumentality, agency, association and local church to make resources available for the implementing of the Aging Priority.

8. OVERTURE: IN SUPPORT OF THE RATIFICATION OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

Ms. Stavenger referred the delegates to the Overture submitted by the Central Atlantic Conference as printed in Advance Materials, Section IV, page 10, and to the recommendation of the Executive Council in Advance Materials II, pages 34-35. She moved the adoption of the revised Overture, and called upon Ms. Susan Miele (CAL.S), a member of the Section, to speak to the Overture. Ms. Miele stated that the Overture contains the full text of the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution of the United States followed by the actions of the Tenth and Eleventh General Synods and is a merger of the two proposals. There was discussion, and it was

79-GS-52 VOTED: The Twelfth General Synod adopts as revised the Overture: In Support of the Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment:

IN SUPPORT OF THE RATIFICATION OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

The Full Text of the Proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution of the United States:

Section 1: Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.

Section 2: The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

Section 3: This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.

WHEREAS, the Tenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopted a resolution urging ratification of the federal Equal Rights Amendment and voted the issue of Women in Church and Society the number one priority of the United Church of Christ, and

WHEREAS, the Eleventh General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopted a resolution directing that national meetings of the United Church of Christ be held only in states which have ratified the ERA, until March, 1979, and

WHEREAS, persons in our society, especially women, continue to suffer from discrimination on account of sex,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Twelfth General Synod of the United Church of Christ reaffirms support for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment by

1. recognizing and sharing the painful reality in which Conferences and local churches live in non-ratified states and the sense of temporary isolation created by the effort to ratify ERA.
2. urging all members, pastors, Associations and Conferences of the United Church of Christ to study and discuss the ERA and promote better public understanding of its meaning and purpose.
3. commending all members and agencies of the UCC for their past work in support of the ERA, calling on them to continue to provide resources for study and to strengthen their support for ERA ratification efforts in the states which have ratified the ERA.
4. asking that members, pastors, Associations, and Conferences in those states whose legislatures will consider rescission bills to act in support of upholding their states ratification vote.
5. urging that national meetings of the United Church of Christ be held only in ratified states until the ERA is ratified or until June, 1982, whichever is earlier.
6. urging the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries of the UCC to allocate additional staff resources to work in unratified states to better inform the church and other constituencies on the ERA, to increase the involvement of UCC members and to mobilize other groups to bring about the ratification of at least three more states before the extension expires in June of 1982.
7. directing that this action be conveyed to:
 - a. governors, state legislators, chambers of commerce, convention bureaus and other relevant bodies in those states which have not ratified the ERA, or in states considering rescission.
 - b. the church, secular press, and appropriate ecumenical coalitions working for ERA ratification.

9. RESOLUTION: THE CHURCH AND PERSONS WITH HANDICAPS

Ms. Stavenger referred the delegates to Advance Materials, Section II, pages 165-167, and to the Overtures submitted by the Ohio, Wisconsin, New York and Minnesota Conferences, and the Central Southeast Ohio Association, Advance Materials, Section III, page 29, and Section IV, pages 17, 18, 19, & 31. She moved the adoption of the Resolution and called on the Rev. Frederick Wenner (CAC), a member of the Section, to speak to the Resolution. Mr. Wenner recalled the action of the Eleventh General Synod in adopting a Pronouncement "The Church and Persons with Handicaps" and raised the question in presenting this resolution whether we will continue to be content to parade before ourselves our sisters and brothers with disabilities or whether we will fund a ministry of concern to and with persons with handicaps commensurate with its supposed priority status. There was discussion, and it was