

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 26

may be placed merely." There was discussion and it was agreed to make this change in the Overture. It was

79-GS-63 VOTED: The Twelfth General Synod adopts the Overture: Healing Ministry as amended.

Overture: Healing Ministry

BECAUSE people are hungering for deeper experience of the power of God which is at work bringing healing and new life, we believe the United Church of Christ is called to obedience to God through the ministry of healing, as well as through such ministries as providing food for the hungry, clothes for the naked and justice for the oppressed.

The healing referred to is "spiritual healing," a phrase which is used to describe the process of being made whole through opening ourselves to the power and love of God through Jesus Christ. This is different from the broader term "faith healing" because in faith healing faith may be placed merely in the human "healer."

Spiritual healing should never be equated with judgement (i.e. "if you had enough faith, you would be healed"); but as a means of bringing a person into the presence of Jesus Christ. The function of the healing ministry is to bring the suffering of mind, body and spirit into the presence of Jesus Christ so that His love and healing power may be experienced. We need to understand and believe that God's will for us is good will and that Jesus meant it when he said, "I come that they might have life and have it more abundantly" and when he invited us repeatedly to share His joy! (John 10:10 KJV)

Matthew says of Jesus, "And He went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people. So His fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought Him all the sick . . . and He healed them." (Matt. 4:23-24 RSV)

Paul himself refers to healing as a sign of his authenticity as an apostle (II Corinthians 12:12), and the pastoral epistles do not fail to mention the importance of healing. "Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord." (James 5:14 RSV)

All healing is of God, regardless of the means. Healing through prayer, touch, and the sacraments complements medicine and counselling, but is *not* a replacement for them. As Paul Tillich remarks in his *Systematic Theology* (Vol. III) in speaking of the relationship between medicine and psychiatry and faith, "the other ways of healing cannot replace the healing power of the Spirit."

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Twelfth General Synod of the United Church of Christ affirms the healing power of God through the ministry of the Church.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Twelfth General Synod of the United Church of Christ:

1. encourages seminaries to provide instruction and resources in the ministry of God's healing, which includes such methods as prayer, touch and the sacraments;
2. requests the Office for Church Life and Leadership to

include in the forthcoming United Church of Christ Book of Worship, prayers for the sick and other appropriate resources;

3. requests the Office for Church Life and Leadership to provide annotated bibliography on the healing ministry of the Church.

5. OVERTURE CONCERNING FAIR IDENTIFICATION STANDARDS TO DISTINGUISH THE BIBLE FROM REWRITTEN MATERIALS

Mr. Whitaker referred the delegates to Advance Materials, Section II, pages 133-134, and to the recommendation of the Section. He moved the adoption of the Overture Concerning Fair Identification Standards to Distinguish the Bible from Rewritten Materials as revised and called on Ms. Katherine Shinn (NY) to speak to the Overture. Ms. Shinn said that in some of our churches there is confusion as to what is a faithful translation of the Bible. Bible translations and paraphrases have been used and accepted but there have been problems. In an effort to clear up the confusion and still be sensitive to our times the Overture speaks to this situation.

The Rev. Arthur Perkins (ME) was recognized and moved to amend the Overture by adding the phrase "both written and spoken" following the word "quotations" in the first line of the resolved section. There was discussion and it was agreed to make this change in the Overture, and it was:

79-GS-64 VOTED: The Twelfth General Synod adopts the Overture Concerning Fair Identification Standards to Distinguish the Bible from Rewritten Materials as amended:

Overture Concerning Fair Identification Standards to Distinguish the Bible from Rewritten Materials

WHEREAS, there is a proliferation and popularity of Bible translations as well as paraphrases and other modifications of the Bible;

WHEREAS, there is confusion among people in our churches in distinguishing the translations of the Bible from rewritten materials;

AND WHEREAS, it is our concern that the United Church of Christ preserve the tradition in our heritage which encourages openness, scholarship, and sensitivity to the times; and, at the same time, maintain a responsible, canonical approach to the use of Scripture;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Twelfth General Synod recommends that quotations, both written and spoken, from Bible translations and materials rewritten from the Bible used in the United Church of Christ, be differentiated and identified as to source in order to avoid confusion and to build understanding.

6. RESOLUTION ON BIBLICAL AUTHORITY

Mr. Whitaker referred the delegates to Advance Materials, Section II, pages 144-145, and to the recommendation of the section. He moved the adoption of the Resolution on Biblical Authority as revised and called on the Rev. Jimmie Sawyer (NY) to speak to the Resolution. Mr. Sawyer stated that the question of authority in the area of Christian faith is one that raises many questions. The Section is of the opinion that the question of authority of faith in the United Church of Christ, is adequately stated in paragraph 2 of the Constitution and Bylaws, and the