

preparation of aids to help local congregations deal with the issues of biblical authority should be referred to the Office for Church Life and Leadership for study. There was discussion, and it was

79-GS-65 VOTED: The Twelfth General Synod adopts the Resolution on Biblical Authority:

Resolution on Biblical Authority

WHEREAS, the Executive Council has received the resolution concerning biblical authority from the Congregational United Church of Christ in Ainsworth, Nebraska;

WHEREAS, the Preamble of the Constitution of the United Church of Christ, Paragraph 2, expresses the bases of our faith and practice as follows:

“The United Church of Christ acknowledges as its sole Head, Jesus Christ, Son of God and Saviour. It acknowledges as kindred in Christ all who share in this confession. It looks to the Word of God in the Scriptures, and to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, to prosper its creative and redemptive work in the world. It claims as its own the faith of the historic Church expressed in the ancient creeds and reclaimed in the basic insights of the Protestant Reformers. It affirms the responsibility of the Church in each generation to make this faith its own in reality of worship, in honesty of thought and expression, and in purity of heart before God. In accordance with the teaching of our Lord and the practice prevailing among evangelical Christians, it recognizes two sacraments: Baptism and the Lord’s Supper or Holy Communion.”

WHEREAS, the Office for Church Life and Leadership is in the process of developing resource materials on faith exploration in the area of biblical study,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Twelfth General Synod requests that the Office for Church Life and Leadership also proceed with the preparation of resources to aid local congregations to deal with questions and issues of biblical authority in the Christian faith.

7. REVISED SCHEDULE OF SECTION REPORTS

Assistant Moderator Shimer turned the chair over to Moderator Hurst who recognized the Rev. Martha Baumer of the Agenda Committee. Ms. Baumer gave a revised schedule of Section reports for the afternoon.

8. HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUM SUPPLEMENTATION

The Moderator recognized Mr. William A. Jones (CT), Chairperson of Section A, for a continuation of the Section report. Mr. Jones reminded the delegates that on Monday night discussion was terminated on the Health Insurance Premium Supplementation on a call for the Order of the Day. The issue is before the General Synod and discussion continued.

The Rev. William G. Barndt (OH) was recognized and moved to amend the report by the addition of the following:

“WHEREAS, the General Synod recognizes that nearly all ordained ministers of the United Church of Christ have at least one half of their health insurance premiums paid prior to retirement and then face the possibility of paying the entire premiums after retirement, and

WHEREAS, the General Synod also recognizes that the heaviest burden falls upon those ordained ministers who retire before age 65, or who have spouses under age 65, and since the annual health insurance premiums for such persons is over \$500,

THEREFORE, the Twelfth General Synod directs the Executive Council to appoint a task force to study these issues and submit recommendations to the Thirteenth General Synod to the end that in the near future one-half of the health insurance premiums of all retired ordained ministers of the United Church of Christ or of any surviving spouses will be paid by the Church at large.”

There was discussion and upon being put to a vote the Moderator declared the motion lost.

The Rev. Leon Willhite (PW) was recognized and moved to amend the report by adding the phrase “the United Church of Christ” before the word “denominational” in paragraph 2. There was discussion and it was agreed to accept this as a part of the report. It was

79-GS-66 VOTED: The Twelfth General Synod adopts the Resolution on Health Insurance Premium Supplementation as amended:

Health Insurance Premium Supplementation

The Twelfth General Synod adopts a policy of supplementation of payment of health insurance premiums for retired clergy and lay workers and their spouses effective January 1, 1980. Funds for such supplementation shall be provided from OCWM basic support. Further, the General Synod requests the Pension Boards to administer the health insurance supplementation program under the following guidelines.

Eligibility for supplementation of health insurance premiums for retired clergy, lay workers and their spouses will be as follows:

1. the general requirement concerning income levels and age at retirement, death and disability shall be the same as that established for the supplementation of clergy and lay workers small annuities;
2. the individual shall have been a participant in the United Church of Christ denominational health insurance plan administered through a Conference or national instrumentality for the five consecutive years prior to retirement, death or disability; and
3. the retired individual is currently participating in the continuing plan for retired clergy or lay workers provided through the denominational plan in which the individual has participated during the five years preceding the retirement, death or disability of the member.

The General Synod establishes, effective January 1, 1980, the supplementation level for payment of health insurance premiums at \$48.00 per year per person (member and spouse) representing one half of the total cost of health insurance for retired clergy and lay persons enrolled in the denominational health insurance plan which is administered by the Pension Boards. Future levels of supplementation will be set upon recommendation of the Pension Boards to the General Synod.

The General Synod recommends the supplementation of payment of health insurance premiums policy be followed