

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 26

metropolitan center and in an area bereft of existing social service resources, employment training or re-entry possibilities; and

WHEREAS, athlete housing for a permanent Olympic training site, a youth hostel, a school, a job training center (among others) are all preferable alternative uses which would benefit the local community and benefit the users; and

WHEREAS, the mixing of an event deeply rooted in a heritage of sharing and achievement with a social policy rooted in a heritage of repression, brutality and failure is unconscionable:

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, the Twelfth General Synod of the United Church of Christ specifically and strongly opposes the use of the Olympic Village as a federal prison and joins with the other religious and secular groups in STOP (Stop The Olympic Prison) seeking a more humanitarian afteruse for the facility.

15. RESOLUTION ON RACISM IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Mr. Fogal referred the delegates to Advance Materials, Section V, page 8, and moved the adoption of the substitute resolution on Racism in the United Church of Christ. Mr. Fogal called on Mr. Dennis Schwab (IA) to speak to the resolution. Mr. Schwab said that adoption of the Overture will be a way in which the Pacific and Asian American Ministries can add their colorfulness to the United Church of Christ with the hope that it will truly be a rainbow in all aspects of life. There was discussion, and it was

79-GS-73 VOTED: the Twelfth General Synod adopts the Resolution on Racism in the United Church of Christ:

Resolution on Racism in The United Church of Christ

WHEREAS, the Pacific and Asian American Ministry celebrates four years as a recognized Special Interest Group in the structure of the United Church of Christ, and,

WHEREAS, the four years have been exciting, struggling, painful, spiritual and growing years, and

WHEREAS, Pacific Islander and Asian American churches have been looked upon in many respects as "mission" or "specialized ministries" by the United Church of Christ, whereby Pacific Islanders and Asian Americans are often not looked upon or often not taken seriously as active partners, and

WHEREAS, Pacific Islanders and Asian American people continue to be victims of racism in the life and in the structure through token representation and/or by neglecting the needs of Pacific Island and Asian American people and/or by fostering situations in which special interest groups are forced to compete with each other for recognition and limited funds, and

WHEREAS, Pacific Islander and Asian American churches, rich in their own cultural and ethnic heritages, in worshiping, celebrating, and serving have not been affirmed, and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ is struggling to become a truly multi-cultural church in accordance with the mandate of the gospel,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, the Twelfth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges all Boards, Instrumentalities, Agencies, Conferences and Local Churches of the United Church of Christ to make deliberate efforts to:

examine their inferior/superior attitudes based upon ethnic and cultural differences, and resulting from our incomplete understanding and implementation of the gospel of Jesus Christ,

explore, experience, and express other ethnic and cultural forms of worship and theology,

implement representation that enables the structure to meet the needs, frustrations and aspirations of the people, thus ending token representation.

16. RESOLUTION ON CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTIONS

Mr. Fogal referred the delegates to Advance Materials, Section IV, page 30, and moved the adoption of the substitute Resolution on Constitutional Conventions. Mr. Fogal called on Mr. Fred Kohler (PSE) to speak to the resolution. Mr. Kohler reminded the delegates that 192 years ago the United States held its only Constitutional Convention. It was clear in its responsibility and there was little confusion about its task. Now almost 200 years later the situation is exceedingly complex and there is great uncertainty whether a Constitutional Convention is the reasonable facility for bringing about governmental change.

There was discussion, and it was

79-GS-74 VOTED: the Twelfth General Synod adopts the Resolution on Constitutional Conventions:

Resolution on Constitutional Conventions

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has consistently supported the preservation of the constitutional framework upon which this nation has been built, and

WHEREAS, we believe the basic freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution reflect God-given freedoms, and

WHEREAS, there is growing support for a new Constitutional Convention, to be called initially either for the purpose of amending the Constitution to require a balanced Federal budget or to prohibit the termination of pregnancies, and

WHEREAS, no Convention has been held since 1787 and no clear provisions for call, composition, powers and procedures for such a Convention are provided, and

WHEREAS, there is a great likelihood that a Convention, once convened, could suggest alterations in any sections of the present Constitution, and

WHEREAS, the convening of a Convention could therefore begin to jeopardize or compromise the protections presently granted to citizens by the Constitution, and

WHEREAS, the generally used method of amending the Constitution has proven an adequate and often impressive method to permit the Constitution to grow with changing social realities,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Twelfth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges that states not request a new Constitutional Convention, and encourages Instrumentalities, Conferences, Associations and Local Churches to oppose efforts to convene such a Convention.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President of the United Church of Christ communicate this action to appropriate public officials in all states.

17. RESOLUTION ON CUBA

Mr. Fogal referred the delegates to Advance Materials, Section III, page 38, and moved the adoption of the substitute resolution on Cuba. Mr. Fogal called on the Rev. Leslie G. Strathern (CAL.S) to speak to the resolution. Mr. Strathern indicated that the substitute resolution has an order different from the original material because the Section is convinced that we must speak to ourselves before we can speak to the nation to take certain steps. The resolution affirms our responsibility to be in touch with Christians wherever they are.

Mr. Fred Abben (IL) was recognized and moved to amend the resolution by the addition of a sixth paragraph to read "seek to develop whatever degree of reciprocity is possible from Cuban authorities that educational work and contact concerning our Church and society be allowed within the Cuban nation." It was agreed to include this new paragraph in the resolution. There was discussion, and it was

79-GS-75 VOTED: the Twelfth General Synod adopts the Resolution on Cuba as amended:

RESOLUTION: CUBA

BACKGROUND: For ten days in January nine UCC people represented the United Church of Christ at the annual meeting of the Cuban Ecumenical Council in Havana, Cuba. Since the UCC has had no mission contacts with Cuba and since this delegation was the first official contact between UCC and Cuban Protestant churches, the delegation decided on its return to request the Directorate of OCIS to bring before the Synod a resolution which would hold up past policy statements of the United Church of Christ and be a vehicle for educational work in our church about Cuba. Members of the delegation were the Rev. Theodore Braun (Church of the Good Shepherd, Carbondale, IL), the Rev. Charles Burns (Florida Conference Minister), the Rev. V. F. Deditus (Zion UCC, Fresno, CA), Ms. Gretchen Eick (Policy Advocate, OCIS), the Rev. Lawrence Henderson (United Church of Leisure City, FL), the Rev. Elice Higginbotham (Cuba Resource Center), the Rev. Daniel Romero (Associate Conference Minister, Southern California Conference), the Rev. Howard Spragg (Executive Vice-President, Board for Homeland Ministries), and the Rev. Jeffrey Utter (Latin American Secretary, Board for World Ministries).

WHEREAS, the Ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ in 1973 urged "the governments of the United States and Cuba to resume diplomatic relations and to work for friendship, trade and mutual assistance" and the Executive Council of the United Church of Christ in 1977 commended the administration of the United States Government for actions already taken toward full diplomatic relations with Cuba and called upon it to continue these negotiations with emphasis on lifting the trade embargo;"

WHEREAS, by invitation nine members of the United

Church of Christ represented the United Church of Christ at the 1979 annual meeting of the Cuban Ecumenical Council in Havana, Cuba, opening contact between the United Church of Christ and Cuban Protestants; the churches of Cuba welcome ties of friendship with North America, both church-to-church and government-to-government; contacts by the United Church of Christ delegation with the Cuban Ecumenical community indicate that relations between the Cuban government and the Cuban churches have improved measurably during the 1970's;

WHEREAS, the Cuban government has indicated that it will release 3,600 political prisoners during 1979 and began with the release of 400 in January, 1979, permitting them and former political prisoners along with their families to emigrate freely if they so desire; in granting this amnesty the Cuban government has significantly improved the human rights situation in Cuba;

WHEREAS, the Cuban government in 1979 initiated a new policy of permitting visits to Cuba by Cubans living abroad for the purpose of family reunification and is assisting as many as 3,000 people a month to restore family ties assisted by an agency of the Cuban government;

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has historically found it valuable to maintain relations with churches in communist countries, such as the German Democratic Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics;

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

1. requests the Boards for World and Homeland Ministries and the Office for Church In Society to increase United Church of Christ institutional relations with the Cuban churches through two-way clergy and lay visits, youth exchange programs, and sharing of resources;
2. requests UCC-related seminars to include materials about contemporary Cuba, Cuban theological writing and information on Cuban religious life in their libraries;
3. reaffirms its position that full diplomatic and trade relations between the governments of Cuba and the United States should be promptly restored;
4. calls upon the President of the United States to authorize restoration of commercial airline and ship transportation between Cuba and the United States, to facilitate contacts between the two countries;
5. encourages United Church members, churches, and conferences to support these steps and to seek knowledge, understanding and friendship with the Cuban people;
6. seek to develop whatever degree of reciprocity is possible from Cuban authorities that educational work and contact concerning our Church and society be allowed within the Cuban nation.

18. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE URBAN AGENDA

The Moderator recognized the Rev. Marilyn Stavenger (OH), Chairperson of Section D, for a continuation of the Section report. Ms. Stavenger referred the delegates to Advance Materials, Section II, pages 153-162, and moved the adoption of the Report and Recommendations on the Ur-