

municipal programs. The UCC must renew its mission to the end that the afflicted are provided with both help and hope; to the end that the city's character and its capacity for civic benevolence are strengthened.

5. National policies with regard to cities will require, in the years ahead, extensive evaluation and fresh conceptualization. The UCC can make a contribution to this task. A pronouncement by the General Synod should focus on the future of cities in a changing economic, political and social context.

VII *Resources and Financial Implications*

All churches, conferences and instrumentalities should examine their budgets in light of the need for urban mission. It is expected that financial resources for fulfilling the recommendations will be provided through the regular budget procedures.

VIII *Recommendations*

The General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon:

1. UCC churches, conferences and instrumentalities to continue, expand and coordinate urban mission.
2. The UCBHM to continue and expand efforts on behalf of church developments in our cities.
3. The UCBHM to work with conferences in selected urban areas on new models of urban mission.
4. The instrumentalities of the UCC to work on relevant national issues that impact urban life, particularly employment, inflation and energy.
5. The UCBHM to convene a broadly representative urban task force which will study in depth a) the nature of the city and its potential for the nation, b) the various public and private attempts to renew the city, c) the feasibility of national urban planning and d) other pertinent urban issues; and which will prepare a pronouncement on the future of urban life in America, with appropriate proposals for actions, to the Thirteenth General Synod.

19. RESOLUTION ON REAFFIRMATION OF FREEDOM OF CHOICE REGARDING ABORTION

Ms. Stavenger referred the delegates to Advance Materials, Section II, page 125, and indicated that the Section recommendation involves a change in title to: Resolution on Reaffirmation of Freedom of Choice Regarding Abortion. Ms. Stavenger moved the adoption of the resolution and called on Ms. Martha Hodgkins (WI) to speak to the resolution. Ms. Hodgkins reminded the delegates of the actions of previous General Synods and particularly of the Eighth General Synod which said that responsible position concerning abortion should be based on a consideration of the rights of the individual woman, the potential child, her family and society, as well as the rights of the fetus. The issue is one of freedom. The resolution reaffirms the right of freedom of choice.

Mrs. Margaret Jodun (PC) was recognized and moved to amend the resolution by substituting the following words for paragraph 3: "The General Synod affirms the fact that since life is less than perfect and the choices that people have to make are difficult, abortion may sometimes be considered; in such considerations, abortion should not be regarded as a

means of birth control, but rather as a choice that entails serious psychological, emotional and ethical ramifications." There was discussion and upon being put to a vote the Moderator declared the motion lost on a standing vote of 306—Yes; 328—No.

The Rev. Gary R. Weber (IL) was recognized and moved to amend the resolution by adding a new paragraph 5 in the Resolved section to read: "allow to those persons counselled in family planning the full range of choices in relation to the pregnancy." There was discussion and upon being put to a vote the Moderator declared the motion was lost. It was:

79-GS-77 VOTED: the Twelfth General Synod adopts the Resolution on Reaffirmation of Freedom of Choice Regarding Abortion as amended:

Resolution: Reaffirmation of Freedom of Choice Regarding Abortion

The Twelfth General Synod of the United Church of Christ reaffirms the theological statements of the Eighth, Ninth and Eleventh General Synods on the matter of freedom of choice on abortion, and recognizes the position statements calling attention to supportive services for people involved in making these choices and in responsible family planning, as enumerated in paragraphs two through six, page 78, of the minutes of the Ninth General Synod, and in points 2-8, pp 132-133 from the Eighth General Synod Statement on Freedom of Choice Concerning Abortion which are as follows:

2. The General Synod calls on pastors, members, local churches, Conferences, and instrumentalities to provide programs of counseling and education as to the meaning and nature of human life, sexuality, responsible parenthood, population control, and family life.
3. The General Synod calls on pastors, members, local churches, Conferences, and instrumentalities to support and expand programs of family life and sex education in schools, agencies for adult education, communications media, and other public institutions; and to encourage the extension of information and services related to contraception and instrumental to the prevention of undesirable pregnancies and the achievement of wholesome family life.
4. The General Synod calls on pastors, members, and local churches to offer counseling opportunities and supporting fellowship for persons facing problems of unwanted or ill-advised pregnancies; to assist such persons in making wise, ethical decisions regarding their problems; and to help them find professional assistance if necessary, as through existing non-commercial consultative services.
5. The General Synod urges the UCBHM Council for Health and Welfare and its member agencies to work for the expansion of family planning services in the communities they serve and to initiate new programs that can serve as models to other hospitals and institutions.
6. The General Synod requests the UCBHM Division of Health and Welfare and the Division of Christian Education to provide educational resources, consultative services, and training for constituents who wish to sponsor programs which are consistent with this General Synod position.
7. The General Synod calls on pastors, members, health and welfare committees, the Division of Health and

Welfare, and other agencies to develop ministries on behalf of disadvantaged and minority groups which would give them freedom of choice in the area of family planning and in the termination of unwanted pregnancies in keeping with this statement.

8. The General Synod calls the above action to the attention of Conferences and Instrumentalities and urges their appropriate staffs to cooperate closely in the implementation of the purposes of this statement."

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, the Twelfth General Synod:

1. Reaffirms full freedom of choice for the persons concerned in making decisions regarding pregnancy;
2. Affirms that all persons are called by our Lord Jesus Christ to celebrate, nurture, and support life;
3. Affirms the fact that, since life is less than perfect and the choices that people have to make are difficult, abortion may sometimes be considered;
4. Affirms that within the context of the concern for the sacredness of individual lives, as exemplified in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, God calls us when making choices, especially as these relate to abortion, to act faithfully.

20. CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE OF THE CITY OF JERUSALEM

The Moderator recognized Mrs. Marilyn Briggs (MA), Chairperson of Section C, for a continuation of the Section report. Mrs. Briggs referred the delegates to Advance Materials, Section III, pages 24-25, and moved the adoption of the Overture on Consultation on the Future of the City of Jerusalem. She called on the Rev. James Dewey (IK) to speak to the Overture. Mr. Dewey said that the primary concern of the Overture is to support peace for the city of Jerusalem, a city of great historical and religious significance. There was discussion.

The Rev. Kendall C. Baker (SW) was recognized and moved to amend the Overture by referring it to the Council on Ecumenism for consideration and report, with recommendations, to the Executive Council. There was discussion and upon being put to a vote the Moderator declared the motion was lost. It was

79-GS-78 VOTED: the Twelfth General Synod adopts the Overture on Consultation on the Future of the City of Jerusalem.

Overture: Consultation on the Future of the City of Jerusalem

Background

The signing of the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel, hopeful as that is in the eyes of many, is at best a beginning with many obstacles remaining.

One very big obstacle is the sharply opposing positions among the nations most concerned about Jerusalem, with its shrines and holy places considered sacred by three major faiths—Judaism, Christianity and Islam. The divided opinions have both political and religious roots.

Because of the religious aspect of this problem, we hope we are right in believing that negotiations and consultations concerning this problem could properly involve these faith groups.

The UCC through its Board for World Ministries has had mission work in the region for many years, and recently has been involved in some Christian-Muslim dialogue, though not specifically about the Jerusalem problem.

We believe that exploratory consultations by leaders of the three faiths most deeply involved might contribute to peaceful resolution of the problem.

WHEREAS, a promising beginning of the journey toward a just and lasting peace in the Middle East has been made in the March 26, 1979, signing of the treaty between Egypt and Israel; and

WHEREAS, important differences and significant difficulties still remain to be dealt with, involving Egypt, Israel, the Palestinians, and other peoples and nations in the region;

WHEREAS, one of the major issues concerns the City of Jerusalem, its shrines and holy places of three religious faiths; Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, and the jurisdiction over them, so that religious issues are intertwined with political ones;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Twelfth General Synod requests the President of the United Church of Christ, and the United Church Board for World Ministries to work through leaders of the World Council of Churches to initiate action to involve Jewish, Christian and Muslim leaders in consultations to examine the issue of the City of Jerusalem, its shrines and holy places held sacred by the people of these faiths, and especially the political connection and jurisdiction most conducive to the peace of the region.

21. LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE AND THE GASOLINE SHORTAGES AND POTENTIAL VIOLENCE

The Moderator recognized the Rev. David Spooner (MO) who moved the adoption of the Resolution of the Resolution on Leadership Initiative and the Gasoline Shortages and Potential Violence. There was discussion.

The Rev. George P. Allen (PNE) was recognized and moved to amend the resolution by adding the phrase "trucking industry representatives" to the fourth line of the Resolved section following the word "groups." There was discussion and it was agreed to include these words as a part of the resolution.

The Rev. George W. Baybrook (HI) was recognized and moved to amend the resolution by adding the word "government" in the second Whereas section following the word "appointed" in the first line. There was discussion and it was agreed to include this word in the resolution as indicated. It was

79-GS-79 VOTED: the Twelfth General Synod adopts the Resolution on Leadership Initiative and the Gasoline Shortages and Potential Violence as amended:

Resolution: Leadership Initiative and the Gasoline Shortages and Potential Violence

PREAMBLE: Due to the immediate emergency existing in our nation regarding the fuel crisis and its attending escalating violence and the effect that this is having, not only in regard to gasoline and diesel fuel prices, but also to food costs due to imposed shortages caused by trucking embargos, we feel that the following resolution should be given a hearing.