

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 "truck-ing 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 truck-ing embargos, we feel that the following resolution should be given a hearing.

## TUESDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 26

WHEREAS, the causes of the present gasoline shortage and soaring fuel prices have not been clearly explained or satisfactorily interpreted to the people of the United States; and,

WHEREAS, it is apparent that none of our elected or appointed government officers seem to be taking a strong leadership position in bringing together those energy powers and agencies that could resolve this critical issue; and

WHEREAS, these shortages and increased prices are causing extreme anger and unrest in many segments of our society with already tragic results and the danger of widespread violence, destruction, personal injury and shortages;

BE IT RESOLVED, the Twelfth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon other religious bodies to join with us in calling for immediate and urgent meetings of representatives from the Department of Energy, oil companies, consumer groups, trucking industry representatives, energy conservationists, station owners/operators, and alternative energy planners on

local, state and national levels to address this urgent problem, seeking honest answers, and developing positive strategies to deal with this problem and its long range consequences;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these meetings be held publicly with full media coverage; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States and other appropriate officials by the President of the United Church of Christ, with the Office for Church In Society, the Office of Communication, United Church of Christ Conferences and local church leaders being called on to give support for this Resolution and its concern.

### 22. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Moderator recognized Secretary Evans for the announcements.

### 23. RECESS

The Moderator declared the General Synod in recess at 5:30 P.M. until 7:30 P.M.

## TUESDAY EVENING, JUNE 26

### 1. CALL TO ORDER AND WORSHIP

The General Synod was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by the Moderator Milton Hurst.

The Rev. James R. Smucker, Conference Minister of the New York Conference, led the General Synod in worship.

### 2. REPORT OF THE AGENDA COMMITTEE

The Moderator recognized the Rev. John Bracke, Chairperson of the Agenda Committee, who outlined the agenda for the evening.

### 3. OVERTURE ON LOCATION OF NATIONAL OFFICES

The Moderator recognized Mr. William Jones (CT), Chairperson of Section A, for a continuation of the Section report. Mr. Jones referred the delegates to Advance Materials, Section 17-19 and moved the adoption of the revised Overture on Location of National Offices. Mr. Jones called on the Rev. Richard Bailer (FL) to speak to the Overture. Mr. Bailer said the recommendation of the Section is to refer the matter to the Executive Council which in consultation with the national agencies will review the issue and report to succeeding General Synods. There was discussion, and it was

79-GS-80 VOTED: the Twelfth General Synod adopts the revised Overture on Location of National Offices:

#### Overture: Location of National Offices

WHEREAS, it is a fact that the principal agencies of the United Church of Christ have individually and/or corporately entered into binding leases within New York City for periods up to 1989, and

WHEREAS, there is continuing concern that our National offices be operated in an efficient, cooperative, economical and accessible location as feasibly possible;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive Council, in consultation with the instrumentalities, agencies,

and the Council of Conference Executives, study, evaluate and report to General Synod on the location of the National office on a two-Synod lead time prior to expiration of current leases.

### 4. OVERTURE ON GENERAL SYNOD MEETINGS AT CHURCH RELATED COLLEGES AND WASTEFUL USE OF PAPER

Mr. Jones referred the delegates to Advance Materials, Section II, page 122, and moved the adoption of the revised Overture on General Synod Meetings at Church Related Colleges and Wasteful Use of Paper. Mr. Jones called on the Rev. Ronald Riggs (OH) to speak to the Overture. Mr. Riggs indicated that there is merit in investigating church-related colleges as possible sites for future General Synod meetings. There was discussion, and it was

79-GS-81 VOTED: The Twelfth General Synod refers the revised Overture on General Synod Meetings at Church-Related Colleges and Wasteful Use of Paper to the Executive Council.

#### Overture: General Synod Meetings at Church-Related Colleges and Wasteful Use of Paper

Section A has determined that there is considerable merit in the suggestion to investigate church-related colleges as possible locations for General Synod meetings and to cut down on wasteful use of paper during sessions.

We note that the Executive Council (March, 1979) has expressed that it shares this concern and has asked the President to continue such investigation vigorously.

### 5. OVERTURE ON PRONOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Jones referred the delegates to Advance Materials, Section II, page 129, and moved the adoption of the revised Overture on Pronouncements. Mr. Jones called on the Rev. Richard Bailer (FL) to speak to the Overture. Mr. Bailer reported that the Section considered the original Overture