

TUESDAY EVENING, JUNE 26

and recommends that the General Synod sustain the current provisions of the Standing Rules which provide that Pronouncements be mailed to the delegates three months before the opening of the General Synod.

Dr. Arthur Sinclair was recognized and moved to amend the Overture on Pronouncements by offering the following substitute motion:

"WHEREAS, individual members and congregations of the United Church of Christ are and ought to be concerned with the Christian witness that the Church communicates to society, and

WHEREAS, the church must affirm its biblical and historic mandate to impact the message of the gospel on the social issues of our day, and

WHEREAS, individual members and congregations of the United Church of Christ have been urged to engage in the study of proposed pronouncements relating to matters of faith and morals, and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ is a covenanting community of individual members as well as congregations whose counsel and consent regarding proposed pronouncements are, and ought to be considered by the delegates to the General Synod,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Standing Rules of the General Synod be amended in order to provide for the submission of all proposed pronouncements to local churches at least (6) six months prior to the opening of the General Synod where they are to be considered, or at least (4) four months prior to the deadline for printing of pronouncements in Advance Reports." There was discussion and upon being put to a vote the Moderator declared the motion lost. There was discussion, and it was

79-GS-82 VOTED: the Twelfth General Synod adopts the revised Overture on Pronouncements:

Overture on Pronouncements

WHEREAS, it is a legitimate concern that each General Synod receive informed responses from all parts of the church in regard to its proposed pronouncements, and

WHEREAS, the submission of all proposed pronouncements to local churches at least six months prior to General Synod would demand the initiation of all such pronouncements be made eight to nine months prior to General Synod, thus reducing the likelihood of response, and

WHEREAS, STANDING RULE V. 13.a.4. calls upon the Secretary of the Church to provide copies of each response to its initiator(s) and to Synod Committees deliberating the subject,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Twelfth General Synod of the United Church of Christ concurs with the Executive Council action of March, 1979 that the provisions of the Standing Rules pertaining to Pronouncements be sustained.

6. REFERRAL OF OVERTURE ON ROTATION OF NATIONAL OFFICERS

Mr. Jones referred the delegates to Advance Materials, Section III, page 19, and moved to refer the Overture on Rotation of National Officers to the Executive Council.

There was discussion, and it was

79-GS-83 VOTED: the Twelfth General Synod refers the Overture on Rotation of National Officers to the Executive Council:

Overture: Rotation of National Officers

Submitted by the Western Association of the Indiana-Kentucky Conference of the United Church of Christ.

WHEREAS, the strength of the United Church of Christ is in local churches; and

WHEREAS, there is a tendency for leadership to grow stale after long years of service in the same position; and

WHEREAS, there are many persons in the leadership of the United Church of Christ who have held the same position for long periods of time; and

WHEREAS, long years of absence from parish ministry allow leaders to lose touch with the needs, concerns, feelings, faith, business and program of local churches, both large and small; and

WHEREAS, long years of absence from parish ministry bring forth statements and programs from leadership that do not speak to or for local churches; and

WHEREAS, there are untapped resources of talent and creativity throughout United Church of Christ congregations and clergy; and

WHEREAS, the denomination could benefit from using these many untapped resources;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Twelfth General Synod of the United Church of Christ requests the Executive Council to appoint a special study committee on such rotation to make the necessary proposals for constitutional and/or by-law changes to effect such rotation, and that these proposals be reported to the Thirteenth General Synod in 1981; that these proposals for change be made to the effect that the following offices be subject to seven year terms: President, Vice-presidents, Treasurers, Executive Officers, Secretaries, General Secretaries, Directors, Executive Directors, Associate Directors, Business Managers, Editors and all department heads, both elected and appointed, of the Executive Offices, the United Church Board for World Ministries, the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries and all other national instrumentalities of the denomination; that in order to maintain order and smooth transition, those persons with longest term of office over the seven years be replaced by new personnel first, and a schedule for subsequent rotation be developed for each office; that persons will be eligible to reapply for an executive position after two years of involvement in the local church ministry.

7. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF OUR BROTHERS WHO ARE CHALLENGING SOLITARY CONFINEMENT PRACTICES AT MARION, ILLINOIS FEDERAL PENITENTIARY

The Moderator recognized the Rev. John McFadden (CAC), Chairperson of Section B, for a continuation of the Section report. Mr. McFadden referred the delegates to Advance Materials, Section VI, page 2, and moved the adoption of the substitute resolution In Support of Our Brothers Who are Challenging Solitary Confinement Practices at