

Marion, Illinois Federal Penitentiary. Mr. McFadden called on the Rev. Richard W. Johnson (PSE) to speak to the resolution. Mr. Johnson said the issue deals with the use by state and federal prisons for long term solitary confinement units to suppress prisoners who are critical of prison conditions. The model for such units was created at the Federal prison, Marion, Illinois. The resolution reaffirms the support of the United Church of Christ for closing the solitary confinement unit at the Federal Penitentiary, Marion, Illinois. There was discussion, and it was

79-GS-84 VOTED: the Twelfth General Synod adopts the Resolution in Support of our Brothers who are Challenging Solitary Confinement Practices at Marion, Illinois Federal Penitentiary:

Resolution in Support of our Brothers who are Challenging Solitary Confinement Practices at the Marion, Illinois Federal Penitentiary

WHEREAS, solitary confinement deprives people of human and sensory contact; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Penitentiary at Marion, Illinois consistently uses solitary confinement as a method of control and punishment, sometimes for months and even for years; and

WHEREAS, prisoners are often placed in solitary confinement without recourse to due process or definite time limits on confinement; and

WHEREAS, Federal Judge James Foreman has stated that this unit has been used "to silence prison critics . . . religious leaders . . . economic and philosophical dissidents"; and

WHEREAS, the Marion Brothers, a group of prisoners who have been held in this solitary confinement unit (hereafter called the control unit) at the Marion Federal Prison, have filed a class action suit challenging the constitutionality of the control unit; and

WHEREAS, the Marion control unit represents an experimental model for similar units being opened in both state and federal prisons; and

WHEREAS, the class action suit against the control unit is on appeal in the Seventh U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals; and

WHEREAS, a national inter-faith religious delegation, including representatives from the United Church of Christ, The Christian Church, (Disciples of Christ), the Roman Catholic Church, the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the United Methodist Church and other denominations and faiths, wish to visit the prisoners in the control unit but have been refused by the prison authorities;

THEREFORE, the Twelfth General Synod of the United Church of Christ, acting out of a strong biblical, ethical and historical concern for the rights and humanity of prisoners, reaffirms its support for the efforts of the Marion Brothers to close the control unit and end the practice of indefinite solitary confinement at the Marion Federal Penitentiary; and

FURTHER, the Twelfth General Synod instructs the Counsel to the denomination to proffer a letter-memorandum *amicus-curiae* in support of the lawsuit to

the Seventh U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, U.S. Courthouse, 219 South Dearborn, Chicago, Illinois 60604; and

FURTHER, the Twelfth General Synod endorses the national interfaith religious delegation to the Marion control unit and that a copy of this resolution be sent to other denominations with whom the United Church of Christ has communications, urging their consideration and support; and

FURTHER, the Twelfth General Synod directs the Executive Council to petition the U.S. Attorney General and the Director of the U.S. Bureau of Prisons to allow the national inter-faith religious delegation to visit prisoners in the Marion control unit.

(The addresses are: Mr. Griffin Bell, Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC 20530 and Mr. Norman Carlson, Director, U.S. Bureau of Prisons, Washington, DC 20515.)

8. RESOLUTION ON LEGAL RECOGNITION OF LIVING WILLS

Mr. McFadden referred the delegates to Advance Materials, Section II, pages 129-131, and moved the adoption of the substitute resolution on Legal Recognition of Living Wills. Mr. McFadden called on Mr. Emerson Cordes (IL) to speak to the resolution. Mr. Cordes said that a Living Will is a written document prepared by a person to express his/her wishes regarding his/her death in the event he/she should lose the use of his/her mental faculties at some future time and be unable to make rational decisions. The resolution recommends a statement on this issue. There was discussion, and it was

79-GS-85 VOTED: the Twelfth General Synod adopts the substitute resolution on Legal Recognition of Living Wills:

Resolution: Legal Recognition of Living Wills

WHEREAS, the Ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopted the statement on The Rights and Responsibilities of Christians Regarding Human Death in which living wills are suggested; and

WHEREAS, the Maine Conference overtured the Twelfth General Synod of the United Church of Christ to go on record as supporting legal recognition of living wills with appropriate safeguards; and

WHEREAS, several states have already enacted appropriate legislation which recognizes living wills, for which we commend them;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Twelfth General Synod of the United Church of Christ affirms the Ninth General Synod Pronouncement on the Rights and Responsibilities of Christians Regarding Human Death; and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, the Twelfth General Synod of the United Church of Christ affirms its support of the legal recognition of living wills with appropriate safeguards; and

BE IT FURTHERMORE RESOLVED, the Twelfth General Synod of the United Church of Christ directs the Office for Church In Society, in concert with appropriate conference bodies, to inform state legislatures of our position

in support of legal recognition of living wills, and to urge the enactment of appropriate legislation.

9. RESOLUTION ON SPANISH SPEAKING MINISTRIES

Mr. McFadden referred to the resolution on Spanish Speaking Ministries that had been introduced as an item of new business and moved that it be referred to the Executive Council for study and referral to the appropriate national agency. It was

79-GS-86 VOTED: the Twelfth General Synod refers the resolution on Spanish Speaking Ministries to the Executive Council for study and referral to the appropriate national agency;

Resolution On Spanish Speaking Ministries

The Twelfth General Synod stimulates our ministers to learn Spanish and to study something of Puerto Rican and Spanish speaking peoples culture so that they can minister also to many millions of Spanish speaking people in the United States. This motion is not against Puerto Rican or Spanish ministers but favors to open more to all Spanish ministries.

10. RESOLUTION ON THE RELEASE OF FOUR PUERTO RICAN NATIONALIST PRISONERS

The Moderator recognized Mrs. Euphemia Young (SE), Chairperson, for a continuation of the Report of the Committee on Human Rights. Mrs. Young referred the delegates to Advance Materials, Section VI, pages 4 & 8, and moved the adoption of the substitute resolution on the Release of Four Puerto Rican Nationalist Prisoners. She spoke to the resolution and there was discussion. It was

79-GS-87 VOTED: the Twelfth General Synod adopts the resolution on the Release of Four Puerto Rican Nationalist Prisoners:

Resolution on the Release of Four Puerto Rican Nationalist Prisoners

WHEREAS, more than twenty-five years ago, a group of Puerto Rican Nationalists, among them Oscar Collazo, Rafael Cancel Miranda, Irvin Flores, and Lolita Lebron concerned with the political independence of Puerto Rico attacked the Blair House mansion of the President of the United States, and others attacked various Congressmen on Capitol Hill, and as a result they were convicted and imprisoned: and,

WHEREAS, the Puerto Rican people have never favored the use of arms for political causes, yet they believe strongly that these jail terms have inflicted enough physical, spiritual and emotional punishment; and,

WHEREAS, the Puerto Rican Council of Protestant Churches, high bodies of the Episcopal, Methodist and Catholic Churches in Puerto Rico as well as in the United States, the National Council of Churches, former governors of Puerto Rico, both Houses of the Puerto Rican legislature, labor unions, professional organizations, student councils, cultural groups, political organizations and ten U.S. Congressmen, have written to the United States government expressing this concern; and,

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Justice in December, 1978, presented its recommendations to President Carter, who has to this present time taken no action on

this petition for the release of these nationalists; and, WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ affirms human rights; and,

WHEREAS, the acts of mercy, love and reconciliation are part of any doctrine of human rights and President Carter is championing human rights in the world as part of the Christian heritage of this country; and,

WHEREAS, the grace of God is dispensed freely to us and an act of Presidential pardon would be a human response of love and a demonstration of the spirit of reconciliation exercised by this nation upon former foreign foes while the nationalists are not part of the United States nation; and,

WHEREAS, that act will be an act of good will to Puerto Rico and as such a bridge of love in Latin America; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Twelfth General Synod directs the President of the United Church of Christ to petition personally President Carter to grant freedom to the four Puerto Rican Nationalist prisoners; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Twelfth General Synod requests the Office of Church In Society and the Commission for Racial Justice to pursue this issue, recognizing the United Church of Christ's concern for the human rights of all prisoners and to encourage awareness of this concern.

11. RESOLUTION ON UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST SUPPORT OF CAMPUS MINISTRY

The Moderator recognized Dr. Harry A. Greenawald (PC), Chairperson, for a continuation of the Report of the Committee on Church-Related Higher Education. Dr. Greenawald referred the delegates to Advance Materials, Section II, page 142. He moved the adoption of the Resolution on United Church of Christ Support of Campus Ministry, including the Executive Council action of March, 1979, and called on Mr. Jim Tilbe (MA) to speak to the resolution. Mr. Tilbe said the resolution comes out of a conviction that there needs to be Christian input into our higher education systems and calls for a study to determine where we are in campus ministry, where we should be, and how we can get there in determining policies and programs for campus ministry. There was discussion, and it was

79-GS-88 VOTED: the Twelfth General Synod adopts the resolution on United Church of Christ Support of Campus Ministry:

Resolution on United Church of Christ Support of Campus Ministry

WHEREAS, The United Church of Christ continues to affirm support for UCC-related colleges, recognizes that there are many UCC students at non-UCC colleges and the United Church of Christ has been an active part of UMHE (United Ministries in Higher Education); and

WHEREAS, UMHE Campus Ministries provide a much-needed connection with the Church for college students away from home; and

WHEREAS, Campus Ministry provides support, worship, fellowship and counseling for college students on large, often impersonal, highly secularized campuses; and

WHEREAS, Campus Ministry is important in identifying