

Urges that Christian Education be designed to affirm the richness of our diversity, including persons with disabilities and their families; that it recognize the abilities, achievements, and contributions of disabled persons, that it provide programmatic and other settings in which we may learn to know and appreciate each other as human beings rather than physical and social conditions.

Calls upon every local church to involve persons with disabilities and their families in all phases of the worship and life of the United Church of Christ.

Urges local churches to organize and support inter-faith efforts in their home communities to pool resources of time, money and knowledge to work more effectively with people with disabilities.

Urges local churches to observe the second Sunday in October or the day best fitting the local situation as Access Sabbath/Sunday, a day for acceptance, awareness and involvement of persons with disabilities.

Urges local churches to use such aids as braille materials; talking books; large print hymnals, Bibles, Orders of Worship; signing; and image and color.

Calls upon the whole church to advocate and support a variety of living arrangements for persons with developmental and physical disabilities.

Recognizes the outstanding contribution of the Council for Health and Welfare Services, institutions for and with persons with disabilities and urges continued support of these institutions.

Urges every UCC local church and institution to make all facilities accessible to persons with disabilities.

Urges UCC related colleges and seminaries to offer courses on the church and the handicapped.

Calls for the Division of Health and Welfare of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries to report to the Fourteenth General Synod on the implementation of this proposal.

Calls for a budgetary commitment to facilitate the implementation of this Proposal for Action. Funds are necessary for biblical and theological research, Christian Education, seed money for developing task forces in conferences and associations, higher education courses, advocacy programs, and resources for workshops and giving information to churches which may request it.

It is also recommended that a fund for low interest loans be established by the Office of Church Building for local churches desiring to improve accessibility through renovation.

11. RESOLUTION ON EASY ACCESS FOR THE HANDICAPPED/DISABLED AT THE FOURTEENTH GENERAL SYNOD

The Moderator recognized Mr. Royal Goheen (ME), who referred the delegates to Advance Materials V, page 17, and moved the adoption of the resolution on Easy Access for the Handicapped/Disabled at the Fourteenth General Synod.

It was

81-GS-38 VOTED: The Thirteenth General Synod adopts the resolution on Easy Access for the Handicapped/Disabled at the Fourteenth General Synod:

EASY ACCESS FOR THE HANDICAPPED/DISABLED AT THE FOURTEENTH GENERAL SYNOD

The Thirteenth General Synod requests the Health and Welfare Division of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries to appoint a committee of three persons to examine the site of the Fourteenth General Synod to determine whether persons with handicaps/disabilities will have easy access to housing, transportation, rest rooms, meeting facilities and exhibition areas. This task is to be completed prior to October 1, 1981, with recommendations to the Board of Directors relative to what changes must be made and/or whether or not another site should be selected.

12. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PRONOUNCEMENT ON JUSTICE IN IMMIGRATION

The Moderator recognized Doris Evans, M.D. (OHIO), Chairperson of the Committee on Justice in Immigration for the report. Dr. Evans moved the adoption of the Pronouncement on Justice in Immigration as revised and spoke to the report indicating changes from the original document.

The Moderator recognized Marvin Morgan (Business Committee), who moved to amend the motion by deleting the word "without" in line 65 on page 6 of the document and substituting in its place the word "with," and in line 66 to add following the word "origin" the phrase "which is designed to strengthen parity." Rev. James Hargett, Voice without Vote person representing United Church Ministers for Racial and Social Justice, spoke in support of the amendment. There was discussion and upon being put to a vote the amendment was lost.

It was

81-GS-39 VOTED: The Thirteenth General Synod adopts the revised Pronouncement on Justice in Immigration.

JUSTICE IN IMMIGRATION

Summary

The pronouncement calls attention to global and domestic implications of United States immigration policy (both governmental and private sector) and recommends policies which call for: public and private practices which reduce worldwide pressures on persons to migrate; a more open, flexible and humane United States immigration and refugee policy; more humane administration of immigration law protecting civil rights; protection of undocumented persons during transition to new policies and laws; and greater involvement of the United Church of Christ in aiding immigrants in resettlement. This pronouncement fulfills the mandate of the Twelfth General Synod to present to the Thirteenth General Synod a major policy statement on immigration and refugee policy.

A. Historical Background:

1619 to 1874 was generally a period of unrestricted