

- organizing and supporting new congregations among new immigrants as may be appropriate, such as the New Initiatives in Church Development;
- offering assistance in leadership development;
- offering social and educational services to undocumented persons as well as to refugees and immigrants;
- assisting voluntarily in refugee resettlement, and welcoming immigrants into the life and fellowship of congregations;
- fostering corporate social responsibility relative to pressures causing migration.

The Thirteenth General Synod recommends:

- to local congregations, Conferences, and Instrumentalities, but especially to the United Church Board for World Ministries, that attention be given to the global perspective of immigration and that cooperation with partner denominations on matters related to immigration be pursued.

Conclusions

Support for human rights and values as new immigrants come to these shores offers the United Church of Christ opportunities for ministry. In addition, creative international participation may furnish new models of ministry to address societal pressures forcing migration. The proposal provides a means of rising to the challenge and seizing the opportunity for faithfulness in mission to the immigrants, migrants, and refugees.

14. RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SALVADORAN REFUGEES

Dr. Evans referred to Advance Materials V, page 5, and moved the adoption of the resolution In Support of Salvadoran Refugees.

It was

81-GS-41 VOTED: The Thirteenth General Synod adopts the resolution In Support of the Salvadoran Refugees.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SALVADORAN REFUGEES

Providing safe haven for people whose lives are endangered by strife in their home country surely demonstrates the most basic of our commitment as followers of Jesus Christ. As a witness of faith in our God, who calls us to help the widows and orphans and enjoins us not to oppress the aliens among us, we can do no less.

WHEREAS, current conditions in El Salvador have caused over 100,000 people to flee the country in fear for their lives and have displaced 500,000 people within El Salvador (according to information provided by Church World Service of the National Council of the Churches of Christ). 22,000 people have been killed there since January, 1980; and

WHEREAS, the Immigration and Naturalization Service of the U.S. has been apprehending and deporting Salvadorans to El Salvador, regardless of reports that those returned are likely to be killed. Salvadoran

children are being returned unaccompanied by their parents or any adult, to El Salvador; and

WHEREAS, indefinite voluntary departure status has been granted in the past during crisis situations similar to current conditions in El Salvador; for example, in recent years nationals of Nicaragua, Uganda, and Lebanon have been granted this status when their lives were endangered had they been forced to return to their countries; and

WHEREAS, Salvadorans and others from Mexico and Central America are being held at detention camps such as El Centro and San Ysidro near the U.S.-Mexican border under conditions which no outside public delegation is being allowed to inspect. There are reports of abuses at these camps.

THEREFORE, The Thirteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon the Department of State of the United States of America to grant indefinite voluntary departure status with employment authorization to all Salvadorans in the United States, on the basis of conditions in El Salvador; and

The Thirteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service to halt all deportations of Salvadorans to El Salvador and to cease its policy of deporting children unaccompanied by adults; and

The Thirteenth General Synod requests the Executive Council of the United Church of Christ to implement this resolution by making appropriate communications to the Department of State and to the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and by communicating the text of this resolution to the press.

15. STATEMENT CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF THE SUNDAY, JUNE 28, OFFERING

The Moderator recognized Mr. Bracke, Chairperson of the Business Committee.

Mr. Bracke referred to an earlier question related to the designation of the Sunday, June 28, 1981, offering which was recommended to the General Synod by the Executive Council. In making the recommendation the Executive Council acted within the provisions of the Pattern of Giving document of the United Church of Christ which was adopted by the General Synod and includes a category of gifts called "Designated Basic Support." The Executive Council designated the Sunday offering as "Designated Basic Support" in consultation with the Stewardship Council and the United Church Board for World Ministries. The Executive Council recognizing that there is some confusion in the categories has requested that the Pattern of Giving be studied in the next biennium.

Mr. Bracke invited the Rev. George W. Otto, Executive Director, Stewardship Council, and the Rev. David M. Stowe, Executive Vice-President, United Church Board for World Ministries, to speak to the issue.

Mr. Otto said it is important to recognize the Pattern of Giving does not belong to the Stewardship Council but belongs to the United Church of Christ. The Sunday