

attention to the expressed will of the Puerto Rican people. Public opinion on the final political status continues to be divided. Two large groups favor commonwealth and statehood, respectively. A small group favors independence. At the last election on November, 1980, those two parties favoring commonwealth and statehood came out of the polls almost even, with 47% of the votes each. The two independent parties cast 6% of the 1.6 million votes.

THEREFORE, The Thirteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ:

1. Supports the self-determination of the Puerto Rican people on their political status,
2. Urges the United States Congress to accept the decision of the Puerto Rican people in the exercise of self-determination,
3. Uses its resources to sensitize the churches of the United Church of Christ to this issue,
4. Urges the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries and the Office of Church In Society to implement this focus nationally, in consultation with the United Evangelical Church of Puerto Rico.

9. REPORT OF SECTION E — RESOLUTION ON LEVEL OF PENSION DUES

The Moderator recognized Mr. Loren Cope (OHIO), Chairperson of Section E for the report. Mr. Cope referred to Advance Materials II, page 26, to the action of the Executive Council recommendation on the level of dues contributions to the Pension Funds. Mr. Cope moved the adoption of the resolution on the Level of Pension Dues as revised by the Section.

The Moderator recognized Dr. John Ordway, Executive Vice-President of the Pension Boards, to explain the need for increasing the level of dues contribution. Dr. Ordway said that this matter had been brought up at the Twelfth General Synod which requested the Executive Council to review this matter. The Council asked the Pension Boards to study the matter and make a recommendation. The Pension Boards has had a concern for some time for the continuing need for ministers to have post-retirement increases in their annuity benefits and felt that while the 11% level of pension dues was adequate in terms of the present, it was not adequate to provide for post-retirement increases. Therefore it was recommended that the pension dues be increased to 14% so that individuals who do retire can elect an option that would provide for post-retirement increases and would give some protection against the cost of living when required to live on a retirement annuity. Dr. Ordway said that the Family Protection Plan requires that participants contribute a minimum of 11% dues to the Pension Funds for participation and there is no expectation that this will be changed. The 14% level of dues payment is a recommended amount to provide ministers who retire to keep ahead of inflation, but it is not compulsory nor will persons be removed from the Fund if they do not contribute at the 14% level. Dr. Ordway also reported that other denominational funds are currently at the

12%-18% level.

There was extended discussion, and it was

81-GS-53 VOTED: The Thirteenth General Synod adopts the revised Resolution on Level of Pension Dues.

LEVEL OF PENSION DUES

The Thirteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopts 14% effective immediately as the recommended level at which dues contribution payments from churches or other United Church of Christ employers should be made to the Pension Board for Retirement Benefits of the Employees.

The intention of this recommendation would be achieved by smaller periodic increases which are expected to reach the 14% level by 1985.

The General Synod calls upon the Executive Council to consult with the Pension Boards, Council of Conference Executives, Office for Church Life & Leadership and Stewardship Council on implementation of this recommended increase; and review the present parsonage allowance minimum recommendation and relationship of Pension/Benefit recommendations to OCWM: Basic Support giving.

10. RESOLUTION ON SUPPLEMENTATION ON SMALL ANNUITIES OF CLERGY AND/OR SPOUSES IN SPECIAL CATEGORIES AND IMPROVED PENSION BOARDS RELATIONSHIPS

Mr. Cope continued the report of Section E and referred to Advance Materials II, pages 120-122, to the original resolution and indicated that the first two pages were kept intact. He pointed out the changes in the resolved section and moved the adoption of the revised Resolution on Supplementation on Small Annuities of Clergy and/or Spouses in Special Categories and Improved Pension Boards Relationships. It was

81-GS-54 VOTED: The Thirteenth General Synod adopts as revised the Resolution on Supplementation on Small Annuities of Clergy and/or Spouses in Special Categories and Improved Pension Boards Relationships.

RESOLUTION ON SUPPLEMENTATION ON SMALL ANNUITIES OF CLERGY AND/OR SPOUSES IN SPECIAL CATEGORIES AND IMPROVED PENSION BOARDS RELATIONSHIPS

Biblical and Theological Perspective

Caring for those who have cared for the church is a responsibility we cannot neglect. Jesus said: "The one who receives a prophet because that person is a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward, and those who receive a righteous person because they are righteous shall receive a righteous person's reward. And whoever gives to one of these even a cup of cold water because they are a disciple, truly, I say to you, that person shall not lose his/her reward." Matthew 10:41-42 (paraphrase) And again Christ said: "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives anyone whom I send receives me. And the one who receives me receives the one who sent me." John 13:20 (paraphrase)

The Apostle Paul complimented the generosity of