

Ministries to continue to expand its ongoing program with youth and young adults and to sponsor recurring regional and national youth gatherings (e.g., quadrennial national youth gatherings, quadrennial regional youth gatherings and biennial General Synod youth participation).

The Thirteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries to explore new areas where programming is necessary to more fully speak to the issues affecting youth and young adults in the United Church of Christ and our society.

5. RESOLUTION ON SUPPORT FOR SEMINARIANS IN-CARE OF ASSOCIATIONS

Mrs. Ross moved the adoption of the Resolution on Support for Seminarians In-Care of Associations.

The Moderator recognized Marvin Morgan (Business Committee) who moved to amend the motion by adding a 3rd paragraph to the resolved section of the resolution to read: "The Thirteenth General Synod requests the Office for Church Life and Leadership study the current urgent financial needs of minority seminarians and prepare for presentation to the Fourteenth General Synod a comprehensive plan for special funding for minority seminarians." There was discussion and upon being put to a vote the motion to amend was lost. It was

81-GS-58 VOTED: The Thirteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution on Support for Seminarians In-Care of Associations.

RESOLUTION ON SUPPORT FOR SEMINARIANS IN-CARE OF ASSOCIATIONS

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has historically and meaningfully supported seminarians in their quest for a theological education;

WHEREAS, financial resources are available but frequently unknown to seminarians;

WHEREAS, the cost of a seminary education is rising at least as fast as the current inflation level;

WHEREAS, we recognize the limitations that inflation has placed on the ability of the Office for Church Life and Leadership to offer direct financial support; and

WHEREAS, the primary responsibility for Church leadership rests with the local congregations and associations;

THEREFORE, the Thirteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges the Office for Church Life and Leadership to join with Conferences, Associations, local Congregations and other ministries to creatively develop and distribute resources and financial support for Seminarians In-Care of Associations within the United Church of Christ including, but not limited to the collation and distribution of information concerning sources of financial aid;

The Thirteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges Conferences, Associations, local Congregations and other ministries to respond to the needs

of Seminarians by creating and developing financial assistance for Seminarians In-Care of Associations within the United Church of Christ.

6. RESOLUTION ON OUTDOOR MINISTRIES

Mrs. Ross moved the adoption of the Resolution on Outdoor Ministries. It was

81-GS-59 VOTED: The Thirteenth General Synod the Resolution on Outdoor Ministries.

OUTDOOR MINISTRIES

WHEREAS, Outdoor Ministry has been and continues to be a vital component in the educational ministry of the United Church of Christ where significant life commitments and faith postures are developed; and

WHEREAS, a sizable number of future church leaders, both ordained and lay, have felt challenged and called to Christian life and service, in part, as a result of Outdoor Ministry experiences; and

WHEREAS, Outdoor Ministry takes place in a setting uniquely conducive to the addressing of some major crisis areas in the life of the global community, affording the opportunity of experimentation and modeling individual, family, congregational, and community lifestyles which may represent a faithful response to God and a loving relationship to others now and in the future; and

WHEREAS, There is an increasing number of our United Church family involved at our seventy conference and association owned sites, as participants, as volunteer leaders, as Outdoor Ministry site managers and as conference staff;

THEREFORE, The Thirteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges local church pastors and church educators be encouraged to increase efforts to recruit and support (a) participants for Outdoor Ministry and (b) to recruit competent and committed persons of all ages to serve as counselors, directors/deans, and committee members of Outdoor Ministry activities.

Conference Ministers and Conference Boards responsible for Outdoor Ministry programs be encouraged to increase efforts to promote and support Outdoor Ministry activities by providing staff leadership and facilitative services, to more intentionally and emphatically address the concerns of costs, recruitment of leadership, major maintenance/repairs/expansion to mesh with camping trends, by developing both an evaluative study and a plan of action, and

The Board for Homeland Ministries be encouraged to provide a full time consultant/staff person ready to respond to requests by conferences, through its National Advisory Committee on Outdoor Ministries, continue to provide guidance and leadership for the National Outdoor Ministry Information Center at Defiance College, provide continued leadership in developing and publishing new curriculum resources for Outdoor Ministry, include Outdoor Ministry in its efforts to communicate and interpret the total educational ministry of the church to its conferences, associations, congregations, and members, and

Seminaries and Colleges be encouraged to explore potential degree relationships with professional camping-oriented schools (such as George Williams College and Indiana University) to offer Outdoor Ministry courses as standard catalog offerings and special leadership training for clergy and laity.

The Moderator recognized Richard E. Arnold (WASH) who on a point of personal privilege made a statement about racial violence which the Moderator referred to the Business Committee.

7. REPORT OF SECTION A — RESOLUTION ON FREEDOM OF CHOICE

The Moderator recognized the Rev. Robert L. Haertig (WASH), Chairperson of Section A for the report. Mr. Haertig indicated the order which the nine items considered by the Section would be reported and called on Gary Stillwell (WIS) to present the first resolution. Mr. Stillwell moved the adoption of the Resolution on Freedom of Choice. There was discussion.

The Moderator recognized Henry Yordon (CONN) who moved to amend the motion by adding in the third paragraph, the second sentence the words "wanted or" before the "unwanted." Upon being put to a vote, the motion to amend was adopted.

The Moderator recognized David Miller (OHIO) who moved to amend the motion by deleting the Resolution on Freedom of Choice in its entirety and substituting for it the Resolution Concerning the Realistic Responsible Choice of Abortion found in Advance Materials II, page 101. Upon being put to a vote the motion to amend was lost.

The Moderator recognized Victor M. Gaud (PR) who moved to amend the motion by the deletion of paragraph 3 of the resolution on Freedom of Choice. Upon being put to a vote the motion to amend was lost.

The Moderator recognized Susan Thorne (ILL) who offered a friendly amendment to add the words "And legislation" in the last paragraph, the last line, before the word "revoking," which was accepted and added to the resolution.

The Moderator recognized Charles A. Stringham (MICH) who moved to amend the motion by adding to the resolution a third paragraph at the end of the resolution: "The Thirteenth General Synod urges the active support of adopting counselling and family planning education."

The Moderator indicated that the time allocated for the report of Section A had ended and it was time for the Order of the Day. The Moderator recognized Edwin O. Wenck (CAC) who moved to suspend the Order of the Day to continue the debate and vote on the Resolution on Freedom of Choice. Upon being put to a vote the motion was adopted.

The Moderator reminded the delegates the amendment made by Mr. Stringham is before the General Synod. Upon being put to a vote the motion to amend was lost.

The Moderator recognized George Waterbury (CONN) who moved to amend the motion by deleting

the last sentence from the paragraph numbered 1. Upon being put to a vote the motion to amend was adopted.

The Moderator recognized Gary Weber (ILL) who moved to amend the motion by deleting the words in the paragraph numbered 4, "and safe, legal abortions performed by licensed physicians." Upon being put to a vote the motion to amend was lost.

It was

81-GS-60 VOTED: The Thirteenth General Synod adopts as amended the Resolution on Freedom of Choice.

RESOLUTION: FREEDOM OF CHOICE

The Thirteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ reaffirms the theological statements of the 8th, 9th, 11th and 12th General Synods on the matter of freedom of choice on abortion, and supports the following statements:

1. The question of when life (personhood) begins is basic to the abortion debate. It is primarily a theological question, on which denominations or religious groups must be permitted to establish and follow their own teachings.
2. Every woman must have the freedom of choice to follow her personal religious and moral convictions concerning the completion or termination of her pregnancy. The church as a caring community should provide counseling services and support for those women with wanted or unwanted pregnancies to assist them in exploring all alternatives;
3. Abortion should not be considered a primary method of birth control. To reduce the need for abortion, the church is concerned that counseling, family planning information, and assistance be made available to all;
4. Freedom of Choice legislation must be passed at both the federal and state levels to provide the funds necessary to insure that all women, including the poor, have access to family planning assistance and safe, legal abortions performed by licensed physicians;

Therefore, the Thirteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges individual members of the local churches and the appropriate instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ continue efforts to guarantee a woman's freedom of choice as outlined above.

The Thirteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges individual members of the local churches, associations, conferences and the appropriate instrumentalities and other bodies of the United Church of Christ to actively oppose the passage of constitutional amendments and legislation revoking this freedom of choice.

8. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS ON THE MEANING OF MINISTRY

The Moderator recognized Rev. John Bracke, Chairperson of the Executive Council, for the presentation of