

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