

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 1

1. CALL TO ORDER AND WORSHIP

The General Synod was called to order at 1:40 p.m., by the Assistant Moderator, William Cousins, Jr.

The Moderator recognized the Rev. Ann Asper Wilson to lead the Synod in worship. As a part of the worship service there was a memorial moment for the Rev. Reginald H. Helfferich who died on June 27, 1981, led by the Rev. Alfred C. Bartholomew of the United Church Board for World Ministries:

"A life has been lived; a service has been rendered; a witness has been made; the outreach of the church has been strengthened; love has been made manifest; compassion has been shown; joy has been spread abroad.

On June 27, 1981, the Rev. Reginald H. Helfferich moved to join the cloud of witness who have gone before us in the way of faith and now surround the throne singing 'Glory to the Lamb.'

He was ordained into the Christian ministry in 1932 in the Reformed Church of the U.S., one of the predecessor denominations of our United Church of Christ. He began his pastorate in a congregation which had been served by four generations of his family before him. During the Second World War, as young persons always have done, he raised questions about the efficacy of the church's program to minister to the needs of the distressed in Europe. The president of the church told him to go to see for himself. And he did. He served in the ministry of compassion at a time when there were few patterns or precedents. He created the ways and means of cutting through the difficulties of conflicting bureaucracies of civil and military authorities and returned periodically to report to the church.

In that period he helped create Church World Service. He pioneered in Catholic-Protestant cooperation when it was not even wise to speak too loudly about it. Then he returned to serve as the Executive Director of the Commission on World Service of the Evangelical and Reformed Church. He assisted in the founding and/or the fashioning of Heifer Project, CROP, International Voluntary Service, Meals for Millions Foundation, Interchurch Medical Assistance, the Tibetan Foundation, CODEL, PACT, and Technoserve. He served on the policy boards of all these as well as on the Committee of Church World Service and the Interchurch Aid Committee which later became the Commission on Interchurch Aid, Refugee and World Service of the World Council of Churches. In the merger of the four mission-service agencies into the UCBWM he became the General Secretary of the Division of World Service of this Board, which position he held until his retirement in 1971. He then served the Connecticut Conference as minister of missions until poor health forced him to retire again.

His messages concerning the plight of the poor and distressed of the world and our Christian responsibility to reach out in compassion to them as well as his reporting of the efficacious use of the offerings of hosts of persons, rich and poor, were the very incarnation of the word of St. James to the church:

'What does it profit, my brethren, if a man says he has faith but has not works. Can his faith save him? If a brother or sister is ill-clad and in lack of daily food, and one of you says to them, Go in peace, be warmed and filled, without giving them the things needed for the body, what does it profit? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

But some one will say, 'You have faith and I have works.' Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith.'

Glory and thanks be given for the life and witness of this, God's servant, and for the dedication and leadership he provided the church during these many years."

Prayer was given by Mrs. Harriet McGeehan, Christ United Church of Christ, Conyngham, Pa.

2. RECONSIDERATION OF THE VOTE ON GENERAL SYNOD EXPENSE

The Moderator recognized Kevin Gehres (OHIO) who moved to reconsider the vote on General Synod expense to refer the matter to the Executive Council (81-GS-55). Mr. Gehres yielded his time to George Barber (Business Committee) who urged that the General Synod adopt the motion to reconsider so that the delegates can have the opportunity to express their feelings about the question of the inequities of the payment of delegate travel expenses and the problems that face the Conferences on the West Coast when most of the General Synods are held in the East. There was discussion, and it was

81-GS-61 VOTED: The Thirteenth General Synod reconsiders Vote 81-GS-55 to refer the Resolution on General Synod Expense to the Executive Council.

3. RESOLUTION ON GENERAL SYNOD EXPENSE

The Moderator indicated that the Resolution on General Synod Expense was now before the General Synod. There was extended discussion, and it was

81-GS-62 VOTED: The Thirteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution on General Synod Expense.

RESOLUTION ON GENERAL SYNOD EXPENSE

WHEREAS, paragraph 168 of the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ states that "expenses of meetings of the General Synod including the travel expenses of voting delegates shall be borne by the General Synod"; and

WHEREAS, the present payment schedule for General Synod travel reimbursement is based by action of the Executive Council upon an arbitrary rate of 7¢ per mile; and

WHEREAS, current high fuel costs have produced a situation in which travel expenses, whether by highway or by air can in no way be satisfied by a 7¢ per mile reimbursement; and

WHEREAS, the Conferences that are at considerable distances from the location of the General Synod become penalized; and

WHEREAS, this puts an unequal financial burden on the Conferences and/or the individual delegates in-

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involved; and

WHEREAS, this may affect the selection and number of delegates from a given Conference;

THEREFORE, The Thirteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ honors the covenantal relationship of the denomination and the General Synod delegates and asks the Executive Council to take immediate steps to find a way to pay an equitable and fair portion of the travel expenses of voting delegates to the Fourteenth General Synod and in the future.

4. REPORT OF SECTION C — RESOLUTION ON BROKEN ARROW

The Moderator recognized Rev. John Fortt (NY), Chairperson of the Section for the report. Mr. Fortt moved the adoption of the Resolution on Broken Arrow and called on Mary Jo Romberger (PSE) to speak to the resolution. Ms. Romberger indicated that the resolution deals with the issue of nuclear disarmament and urged the adoption of the resolution as it is consistent with former General Synod actions and the adoption of the Peace Priority.

The Moderator recognized Harold Ward (FLA) who moved to amend the motion by the deletion of the second resolve section of the resolution. Upon being put to a vote the motion to amend the resolution was lost.

The Moderator recognized Floyd Ramp (OHIO) who moved to amend the motion by adding a third resolves section to the resolution to read: "Be It Further Resolved that the President of the United Church of Christ express to the national leaders our desire that, as a matter of public policy any use of military force by the United States may be challenged in a court of law." There was discussion and upon being put to a vote the motion to amend the resolution was lost.

It was

81-GS-63 VOTED: The Thirteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution on Broken Arrow.

RESOLUTION ON BROKEN ARROW

WHEREAS, Nationalism historically has been a universal passion of people, and patriotism an emotion which can be aroused to war; and

WHEREAS, nuclear armaments have been perfected in great number and with such explosive power that nuclear war would mean the end of life as we know it; and

WHEREAS, the money spent for nuclear weapons deprives our world of financial resources for basic human needs; and

WHEREAS, the biblical mandate of the prophets and the gospel of Jesus Christ is the foundation of our faith and action, declared in the Good News, "Blessed are the Peacemakers . . ."

The Thirteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ affirms a commitment to nuclear disarmament through negotiation with all existing and developing nuclear powers, and communicates this

commitment to the President of the United States of America, and the Secretaries of State and Defense, through the Office of the President of United Church of Christ; and

The President of the United Church of Christ will express to national leaders our forthright desire for nuclear disarmament even if this process must begin with a unilateral initiative on the part of the United States.

5. RESOLUTION ON OBJECTIONS TO PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE UNITED STATES FEDERAL BUDGET

Mr. Fortt moved the adoption of the Resolution on Objections to Proposed Changes in the United States Federal Budget as revised and called on Janet Palmer (ILL) to speak to the resolution. Ms. Palmer indicated the difference between the resolution in its present form from the original, the reasons for the changes, and that the intent of the resolution has been maintained. There was discussion.

The Moderator recognized Robert Whiffen (CONN) who moved to amend the motion by adding the phrase "and each of its members be advised" following the word "Christ" in the third resolved paragraph and delete the word "instructed" in the same paragraph. This recommended change was accepted and included in the resolution. It was

81-GS-64 VOTED: The Thirteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution on Objections to proposed Changes in the United States Federal Budget.

RESOLUTION ON OBJECTIONS TO PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE UNITED STATES FEDERAL BUDGET

WHEREAS, the biblical mandate calls us to bring good news to the poor, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to practice kindness and mercy, and to make governmental decisions based upon justice and an affirmation of life; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United Church of Christ, the Rev. Avery Post, in his opening address to the Thirteenth General Synod, challenged us to address the appalling and undesirable direction the United States is taking in changing the priorities of its federal budget in spending more for armaments and less on human services for the poor and near-poor; and

WHEREAS, the Thirteenth General Synod delegates have responded to the challenges of the United Church of Christ tradition as a leading force in social and racial justice in the United States and in the world; and

WHEREAS, the federal budget for 1982 proposes budget cuts of about \$48 billion dollars affecting the support of a wide variety of programs that aid the poor and near-poor; and

WHEREAS, the re-ordering of the budget for 1982 will result in increases of approximately \$26 billion dollars in expenditures for armaments and defense materials; and

WHEREAS, although reduction in the rate of inflation