

continued discussion.

The Moderator recognized Edward Long (OHIO) who moved to amend paragraph 22 as amended by the insertion of the phrase "who is recognized by and is officially called by the respective Association or Conference of the Church" after the word "minister" in the 4th line of the paragraph. There was discussion, and upon being put to a vote the motion to amend was lost.

The Moderator recognized William E. Flynn (CONN) who moved to amend the motion by referring the report to the Executive Council for further study and report to the Fourteenth General Synod. It was

81-GS-66 VOTED: The Thirteenth General Synod receives with gratitude the report on recommended proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws on the Meaning of Ministry and refers the recommendations to the Executive Council for further study, including feedback by Conferences, Associations, and Committees on Church and Ministry for report and recommendation to the Fourteenth General Synod.

#### **8. REPORT OF SECTION F — RESOLUTION ON FAITH AND RACISM**

The Moderator recognized Mrs. Wilma Richards (IOWA), Chairperson, for a continuation of the Section's report. Mrs. Richards moved the adoption of the Resolution on Faith and Racism as revised and called on Carol Bergmann (MO), Chairperson of the small group that considered the resolution, who pointed out the changes that had been made and urged the adoption of the resolution. It was

81-GS-67 VOTED: The Thirteenth General Synod adopts as revised the Resolution on Faith and Racism.

#### **FAITH AND RACISM**

WHEREAS, the expressions and practices of the Christian faith by some in American life in the past and present have been and are vehicles of racism;

WHEREAS, the concept of "manifest destiny," claiming much of the world for "God and Country," has provided a rationale for the murder of native populations and the confiscation of their lands;

WHEREAS, the concept of "American Messianism," tying Christian faith with American supremacy, has provided a rationale for forcing peoples to relinquish their cultures, mores, and spirituality;

WHEREAS, contemporary expressions of racism are tied to Christian faith in examples such as the Ku Klux Klan, continuing segregation and discrimination in the life of the church and in other institutions populated by people of faith;

WHEREAS, according to our Constitution, the United Church of Christ "acknowledges as its sole Head, Jesus Christ, Son of God and Savior," while affirming "the responsibility of the church in each generation to make this faith its own;"

THEREFORE, The Thirteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon all its Boards, Instrumentalities, Agencies, Commissions, Conferences, Associations, and local churches:

- a. to discern and repudiate those expressions and practices of Christian faith which have served as, and continue to be, vehicles of racism;
- b. to seek to rid our expressions of Christian faith of racist perspectives, policies and practices;

FURTHER, the Thirteenth General Synod calls upon all members of the United Church of Christ to enhance and inform their faith by being open to insights and understandings from within the United Church of Christ, and from other cultures and religions.

#### **9. RESOLUTION ON THE MIDDLE EAST**

Mrs. Richards moved the adoption of the Resolution on the Middle East as revised and called on David Wheeler (MICH), Chairperson of the small group that considered the resolution, who pointed out the changes that had been made in the resolution. He asked for the privilege of voice for Dr. Dale L. Bishop of the United Church Board for World Ministries who stressed the importance of the Middle East and the importance of this resolution.

It was

81-GS-68 VOTED: The Thirteenth General Synod adopts as revised the Resolution on the Middle East.

#### **RESOLUTION ON THE MIDDLE EAST**

WHEREAS, Christians in the United States of America are deeply concerned about events in the Middle East, because of our mandate to work for justice and peace in the world; and

WHEREAS, the Middle East, which is the cradle of our faith, and of two other great monotheistic religions, exerts a special hold on our attention; and

WHEREAS, events in the Middle East profoundly affect our national life; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Board of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America has unanimously approved a comprehensive policy statement examining Middle East issues from a Christian perspective;

The Thirteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ endorses the November, 1980 Policy Statement of the National Council of Churches on the Middle East for study and appropriate action in the churches; and

Since the churches of the Middle East provide the witness to Christ in that area, are eager for ecumenical relationships and are a vital element in theological and cultural exchange, members of the United Church of Christ who travel to the Middle East are urged to visit with representatives of the churches in the Arab world and Middle East Region, and the United Church Board for World Ministries is urged to facilitate such contacts; and

The local churches of the United Church of Christ are urged to develop better understanding of Judaism and Islam by conducting educational programs on those faiths for members of all ages, and through personal contacts with Jews and Muslims in their communities.