

ner, which causes maximum damage to the young, the elderly, the infirmed, the innocent, and the unprotected. Christians are called to be agents of reconciliation in a divided, broken world. The resumption of chemical weapons manufacturing will reverse the progress made over the last twelve years in negotiating a permanent termination of the use of chemical weapons. It will be a setback to the work of reconciliation.

*Other Ethical Reasons to Oppose the Resumption of the Manufacture of Chemical Weapons*

1. Such production would complicate or undermine negotiations to ban the use of chemical weapons which have been underway with the Soviet Union since 1976.
2. America's allies have consistently opposed the use of chemical weapons, having first destroyed their own stocks and objected to our use of chemical weapons on their soil.
3. The program will be expensive, with the ultimate cost estimated to approach \$4 billion.
4. Weapons of chemical warfare are contrary to the spirit of the Geneva Protocol of 1925, which the United States finally ratified in 1975.
5. Chemical weapons would be more effective against unarmed civilians than against adequately protected military personnel and, if used in war, could easily kill tens of millions of persons.
6. Their production could easily lead to a new chemical arms race, in which more and more nations would produce chemical weapons, terrorists would have them at hand, and escalation of both numbers and sophistication would lead to ever greater risks.
7. Production and testing carry with them risks of damage to the environment and danger to human and animal life.
8. There is an absence of either definitive or conclusive evidence that the Soviet Union has either manufactured or used lethal chemical weapons since the 1969 moratorium.

The Thirteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ

Calls upon the United States Congress to defeat any attempts to appropriate funds for equipping the binary chemical weapons production facility at Pine Bluff, Arkansas, or any other facility, and expresses its opposition to the resumption of lethal chemical weapons production;

Directs the Office for Church In Society to continue to advocate this resolution to the President of the United States and to members of Congress and

Calls upon conferences and local church members of the United Church of Christ to express their support for this resolution to the President of the United States and to their representatives in the Congress.

**16. RESOLUTION ON THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST TO BECOME A PEACE CHURCH**

Mr. Fortt moved the adoption of the Resolution on the United Church of Christ to Become a Peace Church as revised and called on Mary Jo Romberger (PSE) to speak to the resolution. Ms. Romberger indicated the changes in the resolution and urged its adoption. It was

81-GS-83 VOTED: The Thirteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution on the United Church of Christ to Become a Peace Church.

**RESOLUTION ON THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST TO BECOME A PEACE CHURCH**

*Summary*

We affirm the biblical identity and historical rootage within the United Church of Christ which stands for justice and peace. We call for the Thirteenth General Synod to deepen its conviction of this rich heritage of involvement in the mission of justice and peace by boldly declaring our commitment to peace as a basis for our life together and our proclamation in deed and word to the whole world.

*Background*

The United Church of Christ has declared its commitment to peace in previous denominational settings through encouraging the reduction of military programs and preventing the building and use of nuclear weapons.

The traditional stand of the UCC has called for its members to be peacemakers and to work diligently for justice, human rights, and peace within the family of nations.

The church has been warned in the Bible: "I know your works; you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were cold or hot! So because you are lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I will spew you out of my mouth." (Rev. 3:15-16 R.S.V.)

We are also instructed to love one another even as Christ loved us. Jesus allowed himself to be killed rather than have us die instead.

WHEREAS, the Bible strongly directs us as Christians to work diligently to settle disputes peaceably, justly, and fairly; and

WHEREAS, the UCC responds positively as a body to scriptural direction from God; and

WHEREAS, the UCC has a history and tradition of love, acceptance, and inclusion that directs it toward working for peace;

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

1. Calls upon all segments of the UCC to become a peace church;

2. Encourages all nations to convert resources used for military purposes to peaceful uses for the benefit of humanity;

3. Calls upon the Office of Church In Society to make this known to the world and to work in concert with other peace organizations toward these ends;

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4. Calls for the Office for Church In Society to develop and distribute resources on the biblical foundations for peace and study materials appropriate for use within the local congregations of the UCC for the purpose of education and consciousness raising on the fundamental element in our faith;

5. Encourages all governments to settle disputes through peaceful diplomacies; and

6. Call upon the United Church to Christ to work positively toward making Isaiah's vision from God a reality on earth, ". . . and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." (Isaiah 2:4 R.S.V.)

### 17. DISPOSITION OF UNFINISHED SECTION REPORTS

The Moderator indicated that time had expired for consideration of Section reports and the General Synod could either extend the time to enable the Sections to complete their reports or General Synod could take an action to refer to the Executive Council for appropriate action the remaining reports of the Sections.

The Moderator received a motion to extend the time one hour for the purpose of considering the remaining Section reports. Upon being put to a vote, the motion was lost.

The Moderator recognized the Rev. John Bracke, Chairperson of the Business Committee, who moved that the General Synod refer to the Executive Council for appropriate action all the items as prepared in the Sections for the Section reports to the Thirteenth General Synod that were not acted upon.

Prior to action on the motion, the Moderator accepted two motions to be included in the referrals to the Executive Council:

1. The Rev. M. Dean Griffith (OHIO) moved: "The Thirteenth General Synod fully affirms the budget adopted by working diligently for its full funding; and further, that this General Synod challenges the United Church of Christ to raise an additional \$300,000 per year to be distributed by the Executive Council to the appropriate Instrumentalities and other National bodies for the implementation of the new programs and studies mandated by the actions of this General Synod; and further that we as delegates commit ourselves to foster efforts of stewardship, both personally and among those we represent, to accomplish the goals of both funding of the budget and the challenge."

2. The Rev. Stephanie Weiner (IK) moved: "The Thirteenth General Synod requests the Executive Council during the next biennium to re-evaluate the offices and programs (such as the Coordinating Center for Women, Affirmative Action, Task Force on Human Sexuality, UCC/Disciples Conversations, PAAM, and the Hispanic Council) which it funds through the Executive Council's portion of the national basic support budget in light of the covenant among the Instrumentalities and other National bodies."

There was further discussion on the motion, and it was

81-GS-84 VOTED: The Thirteenth General Synod refers to the Executive Council for appropriate action all the items as prepared in the Sections for the Section reports to the Thirteenth General Synod, including additional motions and any other unfinished business referred to the Business Committee.

### 18. FINAL REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

The Moderator recognized the Rev. F. Barry Stipp (CAC), Chairperson, who gave the final report of the Credentials Committee:

Conference delegates	700
Ex Officio delegates	36
*Total voting delegates	736

Honorary delegates	2
Associate delegates	48
Conference Executives	33
Special Interest Groups representatives	18
Seminary representatives	7
Ecumenical Visitors	8
Pre-Registered Visitors	250
Visitors	1477
	<hr/>
	1843

Total delegates, associate delegates, Honorary Delegates and all visitors	<hr/>
	2579

\* Including the officers of the Church and members of the Executive Council

It was

81-GS-85 VOTED: The Thirteenth General Synod receives the final report of the Credentials Committee.

### 19. RECOGNITION OF THE RETIRING MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Moderator recognized President Post who acknowledged and expressed appreciation for the service and ministry of the Rev. John M. Bracke (IK), Ms. Ann Chisolm (CAL.S), Mrs. Jean Edwards (RI), Ms. Julia K. Estrella (CAL.N), the Rev. Stanley B. Leiby (PNE), the Rev. Marvin L. Morgan (SE), the Rev. John A. Szilvasy (CA.SY), Mr. Charles S. Velte (NEB), Mr. William Walkup (PSE), Mrs. Helen Wearin (IOWA), the Rev. Jack Batten (SD), the Rev. Charles G. Chamberlain (VT), the Rev. William Koshewa (IS), the Rev. James R. Smucker (NY), and the Rev. James Tomasek, Jr. (SC).

### 20. AMENITIES STATEMENT

The Moderator recognized Mrs. Susan Dickerman, Chairperson of the Agenda Committee, who made the following statement on Amenities which was interspersed with slides of pictures that had been taken by the VISCOM group of young people of the Iron-quoit United Church of Christ:

Every General Synod is an affirmation that the many members of the Body of Christ are indeed one.