

National Council and the World Council of Churches;

Urges the appropriate Instrumentalities to educate the members of the United Church of Christ on the need and nature of local, national and global ecumenical ministry, and that appropriate programs be developed at each level of our institutional life to accomplish this end.

22. RESOLUTION ON ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING NEWBORN INFANTS

Ms. Cope continued the report of Section IV, referred the delegates to Advance Materials VI, page 1, to the Section Report, moved the adoption of the Resolution on Ethical Considerations Regarding Newborn Infants, and called on Lee Zortman (PC), Chairperson of the small group that considered this resolution, to speak to the motion. Mr. Zortman indicated the change in the title of the resolution and the reasons for changing the resolution to its present form. There was no discussion, and it was

83 GS 99 VOTED: The Fourteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution on Ethical Considerations Regarding Newborn Infants.

RESOLUTION ON ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING NEWBORN INFANTS

WHEREAS, the gospel assures us of God's infinite love for every human being; and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has adopted a priority supporting family life; and

WHEREAS, the birth of severely handicapped or "abnormal" children frequently confronts physicians and parents with extremely difficult ethical choices—often matters of life and death;

The Fourteenth General Synod calls upon the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries and the Office for Church in Society to study the nature of such decisions and the ethical implications of our faith, and prepare materials for the guidance of those involved in these dilemmas; and

Calls upon the churches to make every effort to seek ways to provide loving care for all "unwanted" and/or handicapped children; and

The United Church of Christ is urged to explore ways to relieve the extra burden which handicapped children may place on parents and find ways to provide physical, spiritual and emotional assistance to parents of handicapped or "unwanted" children.

23. RESOLUTION ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Ms. Cope continued the report of Section IV, referred the delegates to the New Business document, part II, page 51, to the Section report, moved the adoption of the Resolution on Substance Abuse, and called on the Rev. Lee Zortman (PC), Chairperson of the small group that considered this resolution, to speak to the motion. Mr. Zortman noted the changes in the resolution as recommended in the Section report. There was no discussion, and it was

83 GS 100 VOTED: The Fourteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution on Substance Abuse.

RESOLUTION ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE

WHEREAS, Jesus presents us with a message of love and concern exemplified by his compassion for persons; and

WHEREAS, the Church's task is to carry on the ministry of compassionate concern; and

WHEREAS, substance abuse is a critical "societal" problem which affects persons of all ages, contributes to domestic and public violence, and threatens our ability to be good stewards of God's gifts; and

WHEREAS, this abuse results in tragedies with intolerable cost to individuals, societies and families of its victims including death;

THEREFORE, the Fourteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ recommends that the United Church of Christ, through its local congregations, Associations, Conferences and Instrumentalities affirm and support the efforts of those social, civic and governmental agencies involved in alleviating these tragedies; and

That a resource list of agencies involved in education and service in these areas, with suggestions for individual and local church involvement, be developed by appropriate Instrumentalities as designated by the Executive Council, and promoted throughout the United Church of Christ; and

That the local congregations of the United Church of Christ undertake specific and intentional ministries to prevent substance abuse and to care for all who suffer from its consequences.

24. RESOLUTION ON FAMILY LIFE SUPPORT AND OPPOSITION TO THE FAMILY PROTECTION ACT

Ms. Cope moved that no action be taken on this resolution and it was adopted. This concluded the report of Section IV.

25. RESOLUTION ON CHURCH MEMBERSHIP GROWTH GOALS

The Moderator called on the Rev. Robert B. Curry (ME) to continue the report of Section II. Mr. Curry referred the delegates to the Section report, moved the adoption of the Resolution on Church Membership Growth Goals, and called on Beatrice Starret (KO), Chairperson of the small group that considered this resolution, to speak to the motion. There was no discussion, and it was

83 GS 101 VOTED: The Fourteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution on Church Membership Growth Goals.

RESOLUTION ON CHURCH MEMBERSHIP GROWTH GOALS

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has experienced a significant decline in membership,

WHEREAS, it is essential to the future work and ministry of the United Church of Christ that the decline in membership be reversed,

WHEREAS, the New Initiatives in Church Development program has restimulated evangelical zeal within Conferences of the United Church of Christ,

WHEREAS, several Conferences have voted to call for the development of membership growth goals by the Conferences and local churches,

THEREFORE, the Fourteenth General Synod calls upon the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries to develop a procedure whereby membership growth goals may be established by Conferences and local churches.