

## SUNDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 26

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The General Synod was called to order at 1:40 p.m. by the Moderator, Ms. Helen Barnhill.

Ms. Barnhill reminded the General Synod that Ms. Esther Valencia (SW), Teller, had become ill and taken to the hospital and asked for silent prayers on her behalf. The Moderator welcomed the many guests arriving for the worship service especially all of those from the churches of the host Conference, Penn West.

### 2. CANDIDATES FOR SECRETARY ADDRESS GENERAL SYNOD

The Moderator recognized the Rev. Michael Simmons (CAC). Mr. Simmons moved to amend the agenda to allow five minutes for each of the candidates for the Office of Secretary of the Church to address the General Synod in any way they chose at the beginning of the plenary session on Monday morning, June 27. The Moderator reminded Mr. Simmons that a similar motion had been considered at an earlier plenary session and upon being put to a vote, the motion lost and therefore, the Moderator ruled that the motion was out of order. Mr. Simmons appealed the ruling of the Moderator and upon being put to a vote, the Moderator declared that her ruling had been overturned.

The Moderator requested Mr. Simmons to repeat his motion and upon being put to a vote, the motion was adopted to allow five minutes for each of the two candidates for the Office of Secretary of the Church to address the General Synod in any way they chose at the beginning of the plenary session on Monday morning, June 27.

### 3. WORSHIP REFLECTION

The Moderator introduced the Rev. Sarah Bentley, who led the General Synod in worship reflection.

### 4. AGENDA COMMITTEE REPORT

The Moderator called on the Rev. Cally Rogers-Witte, Chairperson of the Agenda Committee. Ms. Rogers-Witte announced that 130 items of Business had been received by the Business Committee (70 of these introduced since the start of the 14th General Synod). She thanked all of those who diligently worked faithfully to deal with these issues so that they could be presented to the General Synod for action.

### 5. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Moderator called on the chairperson of the Executive Council, the Rev. Martha Baumer. Ms. Baumer indicated that the Rev. Sam Acosta (IL) who had been elected a Teller was unable to attend the General Synod, and it was

83 GS 28 VOTED: The Fourteenth General Synod elects the Rev. Bennie E. Whiten, Jr. (IL) to replace the Rev. Sam Acosta (IL) as a Teller.

### 6. PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF KOREA AND THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Ms. Baumer expressed her sense of privilege for the opportunity to bring to the General Synod a motion which asks the General Synod to affirm a partnership agreement between the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea and the United Church of Christ in the U.S.A., and it was

83 GS 29 VOTED: The Fourteenth General Synod

affirms a partnership agreement between the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea and the United Church of Christ in the U.S.A. It is a mission which is based on our understanding of God's love for the whole world revealed in Christ our Lord. We understand the church to be the worldwide body of Christ, within which we are called as equal members to become instruments of God's love and witnesses to God's word of salvation for all people. It is our expectation that our partnership will help each of our churches better to understand and fulfill the role and mission of the church in the world.

We affirm a unity which is expressed in our sharing of the sacraments of baptism and holy communion. It is expressed in our shared commitment to the establishment of peace and justice and the fulfillment which we know as God's will for all people. We understand this unity in Christ to call both partners to develop relationships with still other churches in the full expression of the autonomy and integrity which we affirm for both churches. Indeed our partnership should foster broader patterns of church unity both in Korea and in the United States, even as it contributes to a deeper fellowship between the churches of our two nations.

Our partnership in mission will take many forms, but we look forward especially to 1) a deepening of our fellowship through the exchange of information about our church life and through exchange visits by clergy and laity; 2) periodic consultations in Korea and in the U.S.A. with a view to strengthening each other's theological and faith resources for the mission in which we share; and 3) mutual participation in mission in both countries by a shared support of programs and exchanges of personnel within the limits of the financial and personnel resources available to each partner.

We understand that liaison in these expressions of mission partnership will be the function of the Office of the General Secretary in the case of the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea and of the United Church Board for World Ministries in the case of the United Church of Christ.

The Moderator called on President Avery Post, who said: "We have come to a very special moment in this General Synod—the moment to affirm a new church relationship, a partnership in mission which spans the Pacific. It's a relationship which has grown more meaningful across the decade just past as we've discovered significant areas of faith and life and witness which we share with our friends in Christ in the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea."

"We have developed a number of partnerships with churches across the world. Many of them have grown out of earlier mission efforts on our part and represent a coming-of-age on the part of the churches those efforts have produced. This present relationship is one in which two young churches have found themselves affirming the church as the worldwide body of Christ, committed to the cause of peace and justice."

"The Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea celebrates its 13th anniversary this year. Through its history, it has insisted on intellectual integrity in its theologizing and in its study of the Scriptures. It has confronted the most difficult social issues boldly; and, of all the Protestant churches in Korea, it has been the most courageous in its stand for justice, human rights and democratic process in the face of

the oppressive regimes which have ruled Korea through most of the church's history. Its ministers and its lay leaders and students have taken great risks and have paid dearly as they've made their stands on these issues."

"We are honored to become the partner in faith and worship and mission of the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea. As we give this new expression to the unity to which Christ calls his church, we pledge ourselves to that faithfulness to the Gospel which will surely be the most faithful fulfillment of our partnership."

President Post presented to the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Korea, the Rev. Myung Chan Kang, as a token of this moment and a way of remembering this moment between us, a chalice as a symbol of the faith and the mission that binds us into the one mission of God. The General Synod expressed hearty approval with extended applause and united in the singing of one verse of "In Christ, There is no East or West."

Following the signing of the agreement by Moderator Kang and President Post, copies of the agreement were exchanged and the Moderator aided by an interpreter addressed the General Synod and presented to President Post a gift representing the Presbyterian Church of Korea.

The Moderator stated that this was indeed a historic moment in the life of the United Church of Christ.

**7. RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE U.S. CATHOLIC BISHOPS' PASTORAL LETTER CONCERNING NUCLEAR ARMAMENT AND THE ARMS RACE**

The Moderator introduced the Rev. Martha Baumer to continue the report of the Executive Council. Ms. Baumer indicated that many communications had been received by the Executive Council inquiring how the United Church of Christ might participate in the U.S. Catholic Bishops' concern for Peace and that President Post had been asked to explore possibilities. Ms. Baumer called on President Post to report on this matter. He said that he had contacted the Catholic Bishops and the representatives contacted in Washington, D.C., indicated that the Bishops would be very moved if the General Synod should adopt an action supporting their search for peace. President moved, and it was

83 GS 30 VOTED: The Fourteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ declares its solidarity with the U.S. Catholic Bishops in their courageous effort to prevent nuclear war. We pledge ourselves to work shoulder to shoulder with them in this momentous task. We join with them in urging negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union to halt the testing, production and deployment of new nuclear weapons and to reduce—and finally eliminate—stocks of such weapons. We agree with the bishops that the issue is so urgent, the danger so great, that each side must immediately take a step toward control of the arms race.

**8. RECOGNITION OF THE REV. AND MRS. ALFRED W. SWAN**

The Moderator called attention to the fact that the Rev. and Mrs. Alfred W. Swan of Wisconsin have attended every General Synod and the meetings of one of the predecessor bodies, the General Council of the Congregational Christian Churches, since 1931, a period of over 50 years. The Swans stood and received the applause of the General Synod.

**9. RECOGNITION OF EVERETT C. PARKER, HOWARD E. SPRAGG, AND JOSEPH H. EVANS**

The Moderator called on President Post to introduce the recognition for the three retiring executives of the United Church of Christ.

President Post said: "Rebecca West once commented about one of the major periods of changes in English history in which several towering figures were passing from the scene. 'Now,' she said, 'We are going to have to look after ourselves.' It is only beginning to register with us that three of our great leaders in the United Church of Christ are soon to retire, and we knew as we planned this General Synod, that if nothing else was going to be poignant about these days in Pittsburgh, it would be that this would be the last Synod that Joseph Evans, Everett Parker, and Howard Spragg would be with us in their present roles. Early on it became clear to us that if we were going to have a special moment of celebration in this Synod for these ministries, it would have to be this Sunday afternoon as we gather in a special way. So here we are for a tender and joyous moment."

President Post called on the Rev. Charles Shelby Rooks, President of the Chicago Theological Seminary, to introduce Mr. Parker. Mr. Rooks introduced the Rev. Everett C. Parker to the General Synod with the following statement:

"Mr. President, Madam Moderator, Brothers and Sisters, it is my very great privilege to present to this General Synod a singular man who can be described best and most aptly as one of a kind! Everett Parker is the only executive director the Office of Communication has known in its 29 year history. He is also the only national officer still serving who was in office when the United Church of Christ was founded. Those two facts alone would make him distinctive, but there is far more. Everett Parker's ministry has been distinguished by the strong determination that the Church shall utilize the most modern means of communication to transmit the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all the world. He is known both nationally and internationally as the most effective advocate any Christian denomination has ever produced in support of the public's right to have access to broadcast media. He has always been committed to justice in the broadcast industry for minorities and women, and his efforts have produced landmark law in American communication. Everett's fertile and creative imagination has enabled him, first, to anticipate accurately the tremendously dramatic changes in telecommunications technologies over the past three decades; second, to articulate effectively the challenges to Christian faith and the dangers to the spirit posed continually by those technological changes; and third, to marshal singularly diverse and effective resources to combat those challenges and dangers. He is a person of impeccable integrity who has been the United Church of Christ's chief reporter to the world, and he has reported the facts about this denomination scrupulously, even when some of those facts were unhappy. Above all else, he is a person who knows how to get things done, despite the most difficult odds, as managers and owners in the U.S. broadcast industry have learned to their peril for nearly 30 years. We have been personal friends and colleagues for nearly two decades. Mr. President, I am honored to express for all the Church the very great appreciation we feel for the unique and