

other social services, and an increase in spending for armaments; and

WHEREAS, those least able to provide for their own needs as a result of age, sex, disability, or socio-economic deprivation are those most hurt by these Federal reductions in funding; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government has challenged private philanthropy to assume a greater share of responsibility for the funding of human services;

THEREFORE, the Fourteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ declares its opposition to the Federal Government's shifting of public resources from human services to armaments, and to the assumption that the private sector can adequately underwrite the human services cutback or removed from Federal support;

. . . charges the Office for Church in Society with communicating this resolution to the Federal Government;

. . . urges all members of each local church to express their opposition to this shift in Federal spending from human services to armaments to the President of the United States and to their Congressional Representatives through letters and votes; and

. . . in response to the extreme urgency of human need arising from current Federal cutbacks, encourages all members to covenant with God and their fellow Christians to contribute more to church and other human service agencies from their financial resources according to God's call to love our neighbor as ourselves.

**8. AMENDMENT TO THE STANDING RULES**

The Moderator recognized David Sandberg (CAL.S) who moved to amend the Standing Rules of the General Synod by adding a paragraph 21h to read: "the introduction of amendments to any motion shall be forbidden for the first ten minutes of debate unless no discussion on the primary motion is forthcoming." A motion to terminate debate on the motion to amend was adopted and when put to a vote, the motion to amend was lost.

**9. RESOLUTION ON ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS)**

The Moderator called on Ms. Cope to continue the report of Section IV. Ms. Cope moved the adoption of the Resolution on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome and called on the Rev. James Landoc (NE), Chairperson of the small group that had considered the resolution, who indicated that only minor changes were made in the original text of the resolution. There was no discussion, and it was

83 GS 46 VOTED: The Fourteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

**RESOLUTION ON ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS)**

WHEREAS, we are called as contemporary disciples of Jesus Christ, to express our love of God through love of neighbor and through the active pursuit of Justice; and

WHEREAS, we are called individually and corporately, to the ministry of caring concern, advocacy and healing for all who suffer affliction and to the ministry of support and comfort for the dying; and

WHEREAS, there exists in the United States—and in 16 other countries—a documented epidemic of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), an illness of unknown origin which ravages the human immune system causing its victims to be vulnerable to serious, opportunistic, often fatal diseases; and

WHEREAS, the United States Center for Disease Control reports that the number of diagnosed AIDS cases is doubling every six months; that an overall case-mortality rate of 41% is predicted (as of April 1, 1983 the mortality rate was 37.6%); that the 1,500+ cases reported to date represent only the most serious and fatal cases; that it is estimated there are 10,000 to 100,000 unreported or undetected AIDS cases nationwide; and

WHEREAS, the tragedy of this epidemic is intensified by the age of the victims (median age 35 years with 85% below the age of 45 years), the futility of the available treatments, and the prolonged, debilitating, expensive nature of their illnesses (average cost per patient: \$60,000); and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control, responding to the AIDS epidemic as a national health emergency, made \$2.4 million available for AIDS research in fiscal 1982 by re-prioritizing its own budget and by allocating \$500,000 approved by Congress for AIDS research (over a Presidential veto), while adjusting to a 20% cut by the Reagan administration in its total budget; and

WHEREAS, the National Institutes of Health invited applications for research funds a year-and-a-half after the onset of the epidemic (and the loss of 200 lives); has yet to make a major grant for AIDS research to a research hospital or university (the largest grant to date was a \$133,000 research subsidy to Houston's M.D. Anderson Hospital); projects the expenditure of 1/5 of 1 percent (approximately \$3 million) of the \$4 billion NIH budget for AIDS-related research in 1983; and faces a Presidential budget request calling for a 25% reduction in NIH funds available for research grants; and

WHEREAS, despite strong leadership from some Congressional leaders, the Congress of the United States has been alarmingly slow in allocating appropriating funds to combat this rapidly spreading, deadly epidemic (only \$2 million has been appropriated for fiscal 1983 which begins October 1st; compared with \$10 million allocated within the first two weeks of the more recent Tylenol scare); and

WHEREAS, this Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome epidemic constitutes a threat to the health of all Americans and to the entire human population worldwide and demands concerted, adequately financed efforts to discover its causes and effective therapies for treatment and cure;

THEREFORE, the Fourteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ declares its compassionate concern and support for all who are victims of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome and the opportunistic diseases it enables, their lovers, spouses, families and friends:

. . . calls upon all United Church of Christ clergy and laypersons to become knowledgeable about this epidemic and to offer pastoral care and caring concern to its victims;

. . . calls upon United Church of Christ congregations throughout the country to become knowledgeable about and supportive of community-based organizations which are providing services to AIDS patients, raising private funds for research, lobbying for federal, state and municipal funds for research and patient services, and undertaking the difficult task of making up-to-date information about this rapidly growing epidemic available to the public; and

. . . recognizes the debilitating effects of this illness and the high cost of treatment, declares its emphatic support for changes in Social Security Administration regulations which will enable AIDS patients to receive disability benefits and calls upon the President of the United States and members of the Congress of the United States to use their good offices to facilitate such changes so that undue suffering may be alleviated; and

. . . commends the United States Center for Disease Control for its responsible and vigorous efforts to meet the research funding needs demanded by this epidemic despite its limited budget as well as its continuous efforts to bring this epidemic to the attention of medical authorities, political leaders and the public at large; and

. . . calls upon the National Institutes of Health to more actively support AIDS research and to alter its policies to facilitate the generous and expeditious allocation of funds for AIDS-specific research; and

. . . calls upon the Congress of the United States to recognize the seriousness of the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome epidemic and to substantially increase the amount of funds available to the Center for Disease Control and the National Institutes of Health for AIDS-specific research; and

. . . calls upon the United Church of Christ Office for Church in Society to monitor Congressional action on increased appropriations for AIDS research and to mobilize support for such appropriations throughout the United Church of Christ; and

. . . requests the President of the United Church of Christ to communicate this action to the President of the United States, all members of the Congress of the United States, the Directors of the Center for Disease Control and the National Institutes of Health, to the Governors of the fifty United States, to selected municipal officials, and to the public media.

#### **10. RESOLUTION ON MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS INVOLVING ALCOHOL**

Ms. Cope continued the report of Section IV, moved the adoption of the Resolution on Motor Vehicle Accidents Involving Alcohol and called on the Rev. Michael Simmons (CAC), Chairperson of the small group that had considered the resolution, who spoke to the resolution.

The Moderator recognized Jonathan Tetherly (MA) who moved to amend the motion by inserting after the word "purview" in the fourth line of the third resolved section the words "other than mandatory incarceration." There was discussion. A motion to terminate debate on the motion to amend was adopted and when put to a vote, the motion to amend the motion was lost. Discussion on the main motion continued. The Moderator called for a vote on the main motion, and it was

83 GS 47 VOTED: The Fourteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution on Motor Vehicle Accidents Involving Alcohol.

#### **RESOLUTION ON MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS INVOLVING ALCOHOL**

##### *Summary*

Due to the extremely high number of deaths and disabling injuries on our highways involving alcohol, this resolution proposes action by the Board for Homeland Ministries, the Office for Church in Society, and the Fourteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ.

##### *Background*

Over the past 10 years, the number of highway deaths involving alcohol has averaged a tragic 25,000 persons a year (i.e. 68/day). According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), drunken driving continues to be one of our nation's most serious health and safety problems.

Motor vehicle accidents were the sixth leading cause of death for all Virginians, for example, and the leading cause of death for those between the ages of ten and thirty-four. Some 50 percent of all drivers killed each year have blood alcohol concentrations in excess of the legal limit, 0.10 percent. About 60 percent of all fatal crashes involved a driver who had been drinking. In single vehicle fatal crashes, where it is reasonably certain who is at fault, upwards of 65 percent of those drivers who die are legally drunk.

Drunk driving has a high economic cost to this country as well. A conservative estimate is between five to six billion dollars a year, (i.e. \$13.7 million/day).

According to the National Safety Council, there were 50,800 deaths resulting from motor vehicle accidents in 1981, and 1,900,000 disabling injuries. This means that for every death, there are 37 persons disabled! This further means that approximately 950,000 disabling injuries resulted from alcohol related motor vehicle accidents in 1981 (2600/day). Hospital emergency room data show that injuries due to motor vehicle accidents are significantly more severe than those due to other causes.

Many misconceptions held by the general public about the drunken driver also cloud the issues. Contrary to popular opinion, for instance, the overwhelming bulk of motor vehicle crashes in which alcohol plays a role usually involve large quantities of alcohol and not merely one or two drinks.

It can be concluded from research and from crash statistics that alcohol-related crashes pose a serious problem in the highway environment and are one of the most difficult traffic safety problems to impact.

##### *Biblical and Theological Rationale:*

The biblical and theological basis for the church's concern and responsibility is rooted in the teaching of Jesus Christ. We are challenged to stand with the afflicted, the defenseless, the despised, and with those who are hurting.

The central teaching of the New Testament is that Christ loved us enough to die in our stead. Therefore, it is out of a profound sense of gratitude to Him that we feel a need to live morally and responsibly.

To serve God daily and as good stewards of His creation, and to respond to the commandment to love one another,