

we then involve ourselves in the problems of our society. One such problem is the serious consequences of driving while intoxicated.

As yeast influences the whole loaf, Christians acting in concert, out of conviction, and led by the Holy Spirit, can significantly influence what happens in our society.

WHEREAS, approximately half of all motor vehicle related deaths in the United States involve alcohol; and

WHEREAS, approximately 25,000 deaths are due to motor vehicle accidents involving alcohol each year; and

WHEREAS, approximately 950,000 disabling injuries result from the same cause; and

WHEREAS, these deaths and disabling injuries impose tremendous pain and suffering upon the families affected and upon the community; and

WHEREAS, more deaths each year are due to motor vehicle accidents than any other cause for persons between the ages of 10 to 34; and

WHEREAS, we believe that Christians acting in concert can significantly influence what is happening in our society;

THEREFORE, the Fourteenth General Synod urges each individual, each Conference and congregation, all concerned civic organizations, and all levels of Government to take whatever actions possible within their purview to decrease the number of deaths and disabling injuries due to motor vehicle accidents involving alcohol; and

... calls on the Board for Homeland Ministries, together with the Office for Church in Society, to create a Task Force to determine specific ways the United Church of Christ membership, as individuals and as an organization, could actively participate in decreasing the number of deaths and disabling injuries due to motor vehicle accidents involving alcohol; and

... requests the President of the United Church of Christ to communicate to the President of the United States, appropriate members of Congress, and the Governors of the States, our concern about motor vehicle accidents involving alcohol and our support for actions which they may take in reducing the number of deaths and disabling injuries.

11. WORSHIP REFLECTION

The Moderator called on the Rev. Sarah Bentley who led the Synod in worship reflection.

12. RECONSIDERATION OF THE RESOLUTION ON CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE

The Moderator reminded the General Synod that at the beginning of this evening's session, a motion was made to reconsider the Resolution on Christian Marriage and Family Life that had been adopted by the General Synod. The Moderator indicated that discussion was now in order on the motion to reconsider this action of the General Synod. There was extended discussion. A motion to terminate debate was adopted, and upon being put to a vote, the motion to reconsider was lost.

13. REPORT OF SECTION II

The Moderator called on the Rev. Robert Curry (ME), Chairperson for the report of Section II.

14. 1984/85 YOUTH BIENNIUM

Mr. Curry referred to the report of the Section and made

several corrections in the first item, 1984/1985 Youth Biennium, moved its adoption and called on Debora Dockstader (CAC), Chairperson of the small group that considered this resolution, to speak to the motion. There was discussion.

The Moderator recognized Dan Felson (IL) who moved to amend the motion by deleting from the fifth paragraph of the resolved section the words "under 21" and substituting the words "between the ages of 14 and 21." There was discussion. A motion to terminate debate was adopted. Upon being put to a vote, the motion to amend the motion was lost.

The Moderator recognized Eric Wirth (IS), who moved to amend the motion by adding at the end of the fifth paragraph of the resolved section the words "including full voting participation on local church, Association, Conference, national boards, Instrumentalities and other national bodies." A motion to terminate debate on the motion to amend and the main motion was adopted. Upon being put to a vote, the motion to amend the motion was lost. It was

83 GS 48 VOTED: The Fourteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution on the 1984/1985 Youth Biennium.

RESOLUTION ON THE 1984/1985 YOUTH BIENNIUM

The United Church of Christ needs emphasis on involvement and empowerment of youth in ministry at all levels of the Church. This encouragement of youth ministries captures a concern and a vision that the Body of Christ includes young people as well as adults.

WHEREAS, the United Nations has declared 1985 as the International Year of Youth; and

WHEREAS, the Thirteenth and Fourteenth General Synods considered youth as a priority; and

WHEREAS, the youth of today are in need of guidance, caught in the struggle of media suggestions and peer influence which often obscure the religious life offered by the Church; and

WHEREAS, the Apostle Paul suggested that youth training should include the enabling of youth to fulfill their spiritual needs; and

WHEREAS, a lack of spiritual guidance and communications has caused some youth to turn to cults and other pseudo-religious groups; and

WHEREAS, a focus should be applied to bring closer understanding, communication and fellowship between adults and youth of the Church;

THEREFORE, the Fourteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ designates 1984-85 as the youth biennium of the United Church of Christ; and

1. requests that the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, in concert with youth, plan opportunities and experiences that will enable our youth to make Christian faith decisions;
2. designates the 1984 National Youth Event of the United Church of Christ as the beginning of these opportunities and experiences;
3. urges the Conferences, Associations, plus local churches to plan events to complement United Nations activities of the International Year of Youth;
4. urges the Executive Council to dedicate one day of the

Fifteenth General Synod to celebrate the gifts of our youth; and

5. places greater emphasis on accepting the talent and energy of the youth under 21 by encouraging greater participation at all levels of our church and in all capacities.

15. RESOLUTION ON THE HOMELESS IN AMERICA

Mr. Curry continued the report of Section II, moved the adoption of the Resolution on the Homeless in America and called on Mrs. Earlene Hentzel (IA), Chairperson of the small group that considered this resolution, to speak to the motion. There was no discussion, and it was

83 GS 49 VOTED: The Fourteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution on the Homeless in America.

RESOLUTION ON THE HOMELESS IN AMERICA

Summary:

The Fourteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ is asked to urge member churches and individual members to become actively involved in ministries to homeless persons and to support efforts to lobby for Federal, state and local action in regards to homelessness.

The Fourteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ is further asked to declare that the United Church of Christ, as a national body, has a collective concern for the plight of homeless persons and concern over the issues which cause them to be homeless.

Background:

It is impossible to know exactly how many persons are homeless in the United States. The homeless remain unnumbered until such time as they come in from the outside to receive some form of service. Only then are they counted or even countable. What is known is that, for example, in one metropolitan area, over 11,000 persons were served by shelter agencies in the past year.

Traditionally, the media, both print and visual, have handed us a picture of older, alcoholic males and disoriented "bag ladies" as being the homeless. A recent study, however, indicates that the 18 to 29 year old group accounts for a far greater percentage of the homeless than ever before believed.

Recent Federal legislation providing emergency funds for shelter and food was enacted only as a stop-gap measure and only after considerable pressure from many groups, particularly religious, all over the country. The funds provided, while a big help, are still woefully inadequate for the great need which exists.

Even if the economy were to take an immediate and dramatic upswing, joblessness, lack of low-cost housing, and homelessness would not disappear. The issue would still have to be spoken to and the homeless persons must be cared for.

Biblical and Theological Rationale:

Both the Jewish and Christian faiths place strong emphasis on hospitality and compassion. The directive of the Lord in Deuteronomy 10:19—"Love ye therefore the stranger: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt," (KJV) is clear enough. The New Testament story of the Good Samaritan provides us an example. Jesus' words in Matthew

25: 31-46 again provide us with an example and a clear directive for action: "I was a stranger and ye took me in." (Matthew 25:35) (KJV) is the basic issue at hand. The call for Christian social action cannot be denied.

WHEREAS, the number of homeless persons in our communities, both urban and rural, is dramatically increasing, due, at least in part, to: (1) the shortage of low-rent housing; (2) the economic pressures of our time as inflation combines with decreasing assistance to the poor; (3) the high percentage of unemployment, especially among minority youth; (4) the lack of jobs, counseling, follow-up care, and community residence facilities for deinstitutionalized persons; and

WHEREAS, the Statement of Faith of the United Church of Christ calls us to be Christ's servants in the service of the whole human family; and

WHEREAS, the problem of homelessness and the factors causing homelessness directly relate to the family and to family life, a Priority decided upon in the Thirteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ;

THEREFORE, the Fourteenth General Synod encourages the United Church of Christ, all of its churches and their members to:

1. support local organizations addressing the problems of the homeless;
2. devote volunteer resources, skills, time, worship services, and chaplaincy services to nearby shelters;
3. offer space for and support the establishment of emergency shelters and day-time shelters;
4. encourage local businesses to provide jobs for homeless persons who are able to work;
5. volunteer resources, skills, time, and other material support to organizations such as soup kitchens, relief centers, etc., which minister to the needs of the homeless; and
6. urge national, state, and local lawmakers to enact legislation on this issue as a result of the Urban Oversight Hearings which have revealed homelessness as a national problem.

16. RESOLUTION TO ENDORSE S.T.O.P. NUCLEAR WAR

Mr. Curry continued the report of Section II, moved the adoption of the Resolution to Endorse S.T.O.P. Nuclear War and called on the Rev. Christopher Noffke (MI), Chairperson of the small group that considered this resolution, to speak to the motion. There was no discussion, and it was

83 GS 50 VOTED: The Fourteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution to Endorse S.T.O.P. Nuclear War.

RESOLUTION TO ENDORSE S.T.O.P. NUCLEAR WAR

WHEREAS, the youth who were present at that General Synod of the United Church of Christ urged support for peace as a Priority for a four-year span beginning in June, 1981; and

WHEREAS, the future of our church, the future of the world, and the future of all depend upon the commitment and involvement of young people in peace work; and

WHEREAS, the Student/Teacher Organization to Prevent Nuclear War (S.T.O.P. Nuclear War, Box 232, North-