

under the sovereignty of God. That sovereignty extends to all dimensions of life, including the vision, theory and practice of economics.

B. Our church engages openly in debate and teaching on social and public policy as a natural outgrowth of our commitment to Jesus Christ as sovereign in the world. We recognize that economic issues are closely related to issues of justice, peace, and international security. Thus economics must be addressed directly, as a basis for social teaching.

C. The church historically has been engaged in the formation of economic goals and policies, with teachings about work, property, consumption and the use of money. Our nation and world are moving through a period of dramatic change, affecting and being affected by different, often conflicting, economic assumptions and theories. Now is an appropriate time for the United Church of Christ to clarify its understanding of the relationship between theology and modern economics.

D. The General Synod of the United Church of Christ has spoken often and eloquently during its twenty-six years about the plight of society's victims, about the suffering of the poor, and against racism. Such statements were based on valid theological premises that achieving justice is a task for Christians in every economic order, and that no economic system is immune from injustice. The relation of such beliefs to our highly complex and interdependent world is in need of serious continuing analysis, so that the United Church of Christ will speak in the future with a clear and faithful voice on economic concerns. Economists, theologians, and others in the church are prepared to contribute as dialogue partners in this fundamental task. A time to gather these partners has come.

THEREFORE The Fourteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ requests the Office for Church in Society and the United Church Board for World Ministries, through their joint Economics and Theology Covenant Group, to convene a broadly representative group of economists, theologians, church leaders, leaders of organizations of poor and working people and others to study these matters, and to present to the Fifteenth General Synod a Proposed Pronouncement, including:

1. An Analysis of the global economic crisis and the impact and function of economic relationships on the whole of life;
2. The findings resulting from their study of economic theory, history, Christian Scripture and theology; and
3. An articulation of a public theology of economics.

And that this Proposed Pronouncement be accompanied by a Proposal for Action which shall include:

1. A proposal for strengthening the teaching ministry of the church on economics and theology; and
2. An appropriate response by the United Church of Christ.

7. RECONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION ON PEACE AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE IMPERATIVE

The Moderator indicated that time had expired for considering the Report of Section III.

The Moderator recognized Nancy Hansford (OH) who moved to reconsider the vote taken on the Resolution on

Peace and Economic Justice Imperative in order to offer a substitute motion. There was discussion. A motion to terminate debate on the motion to reconsider was adopted. Upon being put to a vote, the Moderator was unable to determine the vote and called for a division of the house. The delegates were counted and on a vote of 279-yes and 324-no, the Moderator declared the motion was lost.

8. REPORT OF SECTION I

Assistant Moderator Carl F. Schroer assumed the chair and called on Mr. Burton Albert (CT) Chairperson, for the report of Section I.

9. RESOLUTION ON IMPACT OF U.S. FOREIGN AND MILITARY POLICY ON CENTRAL AMERICA

Mr. Albert referred to the report of the Section indicating that the 20 items assigned to the Section had been consolidated into 12 items, to the material in Advance Materials II, and moved the adoption of the Resolution on Impact of U.S. Foreign and Military Policy on Central America, and called on Nancy L. Schongalla (PNE) Chairperson to the small group that had considered this resolution, to speak to the motion.

There was no discussion, and it was

83 GS 53 VOTED: The Fourteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution on Impact of U.S. Foreign and Military Policy on Central America.

RESOLUTION ON IMPACT OF U.S. FOREIGN AND MILITARY POLICY ON CENTRAL AMERICA

WHEREAS, the United States is one of the Governments whose military and foreign policy is involved in destabilizing governments in Central America;

WHEREAS President Reagan announced recertification of military aid to El Salvador in spite of evidence that the refugee flow continues into Honduras, killings and kidnappings of citizens by government forces occur, and no trials have been held for the men accused of killing the Maryknoll sisters and American labor unionists;

WHEREAS Amnesty International and America Watch have documented 2,600 killings of Indians by government forces since May, 1982, through the Guatemalan government's pacification program which have resulted in 100,000 Indians displaced internally, and yet President Reagan has approved the shipment of \$6.2 million in military parts to the Guatemalan government;

WHEREAS *Newsweek*, *N.Y. Times* and the U.S. Congressional Intelligence Committee revealed the role of the CIA in training Ex-Somoza Nicaraguans to conduct raids into Nicaragua;

WHEREAS the U.S. has tripled the amount of military aid, \$31 million to Honduras in 1982, is building new air bases and on February 1 and 2, 1983 conducted joint military exercises on the Honduran-Nicaraguan border;

WHEREAS the constant attacks and the threat of even wider hostilities have forced the Nicaraguan government and people to divert scarce material, human, and financial resources from the vital tasks of reconstruction and development to the build-up of the country's defense capabilities;

WHEREAS Costa Rica, in difficult financial situation, has accepted \$2 million for training of its Civil Guard, has in-

stalled an early warning system along the Nicaragua-Costa Rica border, and under USA influence hosted a regional conference, Forum of Peace and Democracy, in October 1982 which excluded Nicaragua;

WHEREAS the Assembly of the Evangelical Churches and representatives of other religious bodies of Nicaragua have specifically requested the support of religious people and organizations in the United States to prevent the outbreak of open hostilities between Nicaragua and Honduras, and the escalation of U.S. involvement in the conflict and to establish the basis for a just and lasting peace in the region;

WHEREAS the Latin American Council of Churches has urged the churches in the United States to oppose any form of aggression against Nicaragua; and

WHEREAS other governments in the area have offered their good offices and made concrete proposals for a negotiated solution to this conflict;

THEREFORE the Fourteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ:

1. Expresses alarm at the growing danger of war between Nicaragua and Honduras and the threat which such a war would pose to the peoples of the entire Central American region;
2. Calls upon the United States Government to lead all other governments by reversing its policy of seeking military solutions to the conflicts in Central America, and to pursue with vigor every opportunity to obtain just, negotiated solutions;
3. Calls upon the United States government to cease all direct or indirect activity designed to destabilize the Government of Nicaragua;
4. Applauds the offer of Mexico and Venezuela to help bring about a negotiated peace along the Nicaraguan-Honduran border and urges the Administration to pursue this opportunity for promoting peace in the area;
5. Calls upon the United States government to reverse its policy of seeking military solutions to the conflicts in Central America, and to pursue with vigor every opportunity to obtain just, negotiated solutions;
6. Requests the United Church Board for World Ministries to pursue the development of peace-making programs in Central America;
7. Calls upon the President and concerned members of the United Church of Christ to communicate these concerns to the President of the United States, the Secretary of State and to members of Congress.

10. RESOLUTION ON URGING EXTENDED VOLUNTARY DEPARTURE STATUS FOR EL SALVADORANS AND GUATEMALANS SEEKING REFUGE IN THE UNITED STATES.

Mr. Albert continued the report of Section I, moved the adoption of the Resolution on Urging Extended Voluntary Departure Status for El Salvadorans and Guatemalans Seeking Refuge in the United States, and called on Nancy S. Schongalla (PNE) Chairperson of the small group that had considered this resolution, to speak to the motion. There was no discussion, and it was

83 GS 54 VOTED: The Fourteenth General Synod

adopts the Resolution on Urging Extended Voluntary Departure Status for El Salvadorans and Guatemalans Seeking Refuge in the United States.

RESOLUTION ON URGING EXTENDED VOLUNTARY DEPARTURE STATUS FOR EL SALVADORANS AND GUATEMALANS SEEKING REFUGE IN THE UNITED STATES

Summary and background:

The American Council of Voluntary Agencies Committee on Migration and Refugee Affairs issued a statement on June 3, 1983, calling for Extended Voluntary Departure Status for Salvadoran and Guatemalan nationals seeking safe haven in the United States.

The statement expressed the concern of the member national agencies including Church World Service over the tragic human consequences of the expulsion from the U.S. of large numbers of Salvadorans, Guatemalans, and other Central Americans seeking safe haven here. The agencies called into question the arguments utilized to deny protection to refugees in this country. They noted that "the situations of El Salvador and Guatemala, like so many others in the world, are precisely those which motivate refugee flight. That flight is a natural and predictable response by people to escape crossfire and the danger of pervasive random violence. These are situations from which refugees must be protected."

It has been conservatively estimated that over one hundred thousand nationals of El Salvador and Guatemala have fled from their countries and entered the U.S. since January, 1980, and the U.S. Government is currently detaining these nationals for the purpose of deporting or otherwise returning them to their countries. These nationals, if provided with extended voluntary departure status, could remain in the U.S. until it is safe to return home. We are asking for an active advocacy campaign to call upon the United States Government to grant to El Salvadoran and Guatemalan nationals seeking refuge in our country the privilege of "extended voluntary departure status" until they can return home with a reasonable degree of safety.

WHEREAS, our faith is grounded in God who demands justice, and

WHEREAS, we are commanded to show love for our neighbors, and

WHEREAS, the ongoing fighting between the military forces of the Government of El Salvador and opposition forces is creating potentially life-threatening situations for innocent nationals of El Salvador, and

WHEREAS, it has been conservatively estimated that over one hundred thousand nationals of El Salvador and Guatemala have fled from their countries and entered the U.S. since January, 1980, and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Government is currently detaining many of these nationals of El Salvador and Guatemala for the purpose of deporting or otherwise returning them to their countries, and

WHEREAS, deportation of these nationals could be temporarily suspended until it becomes safe to return to El Salvador and Guatemala if they are provided with extended voluntary departure status, and