

WHEREAS, such extended voluntary departure status has been granted in recent history in cases of nationals who fled Ethiopia, Vietnam, Laos, Iran and Nicaragua, and

WHEREAS, over 45 Roman Catholic, Jewish and Protestant congregations have provided sanctuary sites for these nationals, aided by over 600 "co-conspiring" congregations and religious organizations:

THEREFORE the Fourteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ, through the Office of the President, issues an immediate call to all pastors and congregations urging 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.

The Fourteenth General Synod applauds those congregations granting sanctuary to El Salvadorans and Guatemalans, and encourages all our congregations to consider providing sanctuary until such time as extended voluntary departure status is granted.

*"Extended Voluntary Departure is a legal category in the Immigration and Naturalization Act granting temporary asylum to Foreign nationals caught outside their country during times of strife. The State Department suspends this status as soon as these nationals can return home safely."

11. RESOLUTION ON OPPOSITION TO SIMPSON-MAZZOLI IMMIGRATION BILL (SENATE BILL 529, HOUSE RESOLUTION 1510)

Mr. Albert continued the report of Section I, moved the adoption of the Resolution on Opposition to the Simpson-Mazzoli Immigration Bill, and requested that voice be granted to the Rev. Alfonso Roman, Chairperson of the UCC Immigration Refugee Task Force, so that he might speak to the motion. Voice was granted to Mr. Roman who spoke to the motion. He indicated that the Task Force was organized at the 13th General Synod and brings together Instrumentality Staff persons working on immigration and refugee issues to coordinate their work as well as to monitor legislation. He urged the adoption of the resolution. There was discussion. A motion to terminate debate was adopted. It was

83 GS 55 VOTED: The Fourteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution on Opposition to the Simpson-Mazzoli Immigration Bill (Senate Bill 529, House Resolution 1510)

RESOLUTION ON OPPOSITION TO THE SIMPSON-MAZZOLI IMMIGRATION BILL

WHEREAS, The Immigration Reform and Control Act, (HR 1510, S529) sponsored by Sen. Alan Simpson (R-WY) and Rep. Romano Mazzoli (D-KY) is once again before the Congress;

WHEREAS, This controversial bill was allowed to die in the "lame duck" session of the 1982 Congress after facing opposition from minority communities, churches and civil libertarians;

WHEREAS, The Simpson-Mazzoli bill is the first major attempt to restructure immigration policy in 30 years; the bill has been at the center of controversy, revealing deep-seated antagonisms over the desirability of new immigration by people of color; and the main thrust of the bill is

actually aimed at "controlling our borders," that is, capping the flow of immigrants from Asia and Latin America;

WHEREAS, The new immigration bill is being proposed at a time of economic recession and record unemployment and the bill's supporters promise to create jobs for Americans with stricter border controls and by deporting aliens ineligible under a proposed legalization of amnesty plan;

WHEREAS, There are questionable features of the Simpson-Mazzoli bill; including:

1. Elimination of the fifth preference, the immigration category for brothers and sisters of U.S. citizens, would severely cripple family reunification efforts by Asian Americans and other nationalities whose families were artificially separated by past exclusionary legislation.
2. Legislation or amnesty, as structured by this bill, would make a mockery of the original humanitarian intent of this provision. The two-tier system would find ineligible all undocumented workers who have entered the U.S. since 1980. As many undocumented workers are employed under assumed names, most could not actually prove continuous residency since 1977 or 1980 and would be subjected to deportation. Voluntary agencies (VOGAGs) certified by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) would process the paperwork while leaving the determination of eligibility to the INS. In effect, social service agencies would assist the INS in preparing deportation cases.
3. Employer sanctions, designed to prevent employment of undocumented workers, would be unfairly enforced with fines of \$5,000 and deportation for employees and only minimum punitive action against employers. The unforeseen results of such sanctions may include hiring discrimination against minorities and a larger "illegal" economy based on forged I.D. papers, employer-INS intimidation of workers, sub-minimum wages and unsafe working conditions.
4. The guest worker program proposed by the Reagan Administration would create a large mobile temporary workforce without social benefits and labor or civil rights. An increased H-2 program would benefit agribusiness at the expense of the wages and working conditions of farmworkers.
5. The verification proposal would require every person in America to carry a national identification card at all times. Personal information on employment record and social service would be recorded by a central computer controlled by the Presidency. This would be an unprecedented invasion of privacy by the government.
6. This bill would deny aliens in exclusion and deportation cases rights of due process guaranteed under existing immigration law. In the Senate version, refugees would be summarily excluded without a hearing, denied notice of their right to counsel and asylum, and banned from going to court if they are denied procedural rights.

WHEREAS, if passed, the Simpson-Mazzoli bill would open the way to intensify discrimination against minority communities, renewed INS terror against immigrants,

refugees and undocumented and greater government surveillance of all American citizens and residents;

WHEREAS, passage of this bill would repeat the costly mistakes of past immigration practices by continuing the cycle of immigrants influx during labor shortage followed by racist exclusion in times of economic crisis and America's long-term immigration must not be guided by shortsighted and hysterical response to our country's immediate economic problems;

WHEREAS, a completely new immigration policy, a genuine humanitarian reform is needed; such a new policy would remedy past exclusionary injustices while accepting the reality of new immigration; Domestic immigration policy is inseparably linked by our country's foreign policy and our nation must address the causes of immigration from the Third World political repression, social polarization and economic domination;

WHEREAS, the Simpson-Mazzoli immigration bill would intensify discrimination against minority communities, increase civil rights abuses and deportations of refugees and undocumented workers and threaten the privacy of all American citizens and residents. Increased polarization, economic and military domination which are conditions brought on, to a large degree, by American policy and corporate interest;

WHEREAS, America has historically been a haven for "your poor, your huddled masses . . . the homeless, the tempest-tossed," while abandonment of this tradition, as during the years of Asian Exclusion, has exacted a terrible human and moral cost to our nation and its democratic principle;

WHEREAS, The Christian church has always been shelter and comfort to the sojourner while innumerable passages in Scripture have vividly illustrated charity and hospitality to strangers.

THEREFORE the Fourteenth General Synod opposes the Simpson-Mazzoli Bill and urges the United States Congress not to proceed with its adoption;

. . . Urges Congress to engage in continuing conversation and negotiation with other nations to study the causes of migration, including U.S. foreign and trade policies and how those causes would be addressed;

Urges Congress to continue to develop a uniform, just and humane immigration policy, including the creation of an independent immigration board, federal impact aid, and a refugee admission policy that does not discriminate against those refugees who flee from foreign governments supported by the United States; and

Urges Congress to consider the Pronouncement on Justice in Immigration as adopted by the Thirteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ.

12. WORSHIP REFLECTION

The Moderator called on Rev. Sarah Bentley to lead the General Synod in Worship reflection.

Moderator Barnhill assumed the chair and reminded the delegates that Monday night at the time of adjournment, there was a motion on the floor to refer Article V to the local churches for study and report to the Fifteenth General Synod. There was also confusion regarding the appropriate-

ness of the action to amend Paragraph 23 of the Constitution. The Moderator indicated that these matters would be considered one at a time.

13. CONSIDERATION OF MOTION TO REFER ARTICLE V

The Moderator read the motion made by Harold Landwehr (MA) that the amendments to Article V be sent to the local churches for further study and a report be given to the Fifteenth General Synod and indicated that that motion was before the General Synod and open to discussion. Discussion continued. A motion to terminate debate on the motion to refer was adopted. Upon being put to a vote, the motion to refer was lost.

14. RECONSIDERATION OF THE VOTE ON PARAGRAPH 23 OF THE CONSTITUTION

The Moderator reminded the delegates that a motion had been adopted to change the word "students" to "persons" in Paragraph 23 of the Constitution and that the matter was now before the General Synod on a motion to reconsider the amendment. There was discussion. A motion to terminate debate was adopted. Upon being put to a vote, the Moderator indicated that the motion to amend lost.

15. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS (PARAGRAPHS 3,17-26)

The Moderator indicated that the motion before the General Synod is the motion that was made by the Rev. Martha Baumer on behalf of the Executive Council that the Fourteenth General Synod amend the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ, Paragraphs 3, 17-26 to read as printed in the right-hand column of Advanced Materials IV, pages 7-10. A motion to terminate debate was adopted. It was

83 GS 56 VOTED: The Fourteenth General Synod amends Paragraphs 3, and 17-26 of the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ to read as follows:

- 3 The provisions herein define and regulate the General Synod and those Instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ which are recognized, established by or responsible to the General Synod and describe the free and voluntary relationships which the local churches, Associations, Conferences and Ordained, Commissioned and Licensed Ministers sustain with the General Synod and with each other. The pattern of relationships and procedures so described is recommended to local churches, Associations, Conferences and Ordained, Commissioned and Licensed Ministers, to enable them to accomplish more effectively their tasks and the work of the United Church of Christ.
- 17 The United Church of Christ recognizes that God calls the whole church and every member to participate in and extend the ministry of Jesus Christ by witnessing to the gospel in church and society. The United Church of Christ seeks to undergird the ministry of its members by nurturing faith, calling forth gifts, and equipping members for Christian service.
- 18 The United Church of Christ recognizes that God calls certain of its members to various forms of ministry in and on behalf of the church for which ecclesiastical authorization is required by the church. Recognizing