

Laurie's survey indicated whether they were supplementing layworker's health insurance premiums.

Under the current guidelines adopted by the General Synod (79 GS 66) retired ministers, layworkers and spouses with small annuities are receiving some assistance. At the October 1982 Executive Council meeting, it was authorized that the supplementation of health insurance cost for eligible participants be increased from \$94.50 per annum to \$186.00, effective January 1, 1983. The health insurance supplementation included the cost of dental insurance.

It is recognized that there are retired ministers, layworkers and spouses with an adequate retirement income who are able to absorb the health insurance premiums. However, many UCC retired ministers, layworkers and spouses find themselves in the middle retirement benefit bracket. The escalation of health insurance premiums is now becoming a burden to them at a time of life when health care is apt to be most necessary.

The present policies in Conferences and Associations concerning assistance toward health insurance premiums related only to retired ministers and spouses. For example, four retired ministers who reside within Central Southeast Ohio Association retain their standing in the Associations where they served prior to retirement. If they transferred ministerial standing to Central Southeast Ohio Association, they would lose the benefits from their former Association or Conference. Furthermore, they would not be eligible to receive premium assistance because they had not served the last five years of ministry in the Association where they now reside. While not all Associations or Conferences would terminate insurance premium assistance upon transfer of ministerial standing from one Association to another, there are those that do. Thus another inequity exists.

In the majority of Conferences, health insurance assistance is provided by Basic Support dollars. As insurance premiums continue to rise sharply, this becomes a budgetary concern for Associations and Conferences. Within the Ohio Conference, Associations were confronted with a crisis situation concerning the 1983 premium costs. Consequently, the Board of Trustees authorized that the Annual Christmas Fund be promoted in such a manner as to insure that the national appeal would receive a fair increase and that the amount over and above would be utilized to supplement health insurance premiums for retired ministers and spouses.

The issue before this denomination is to develop an equitable policy and practice so that no one in the system will be hurt. In order to implement a national policy, the Executive Council and Pension Boards in consultation with the Council of Conference Executives should set guidelines taking into consideration all existing practices. In order to promote the transition from present system(s) to a national policy and practice, the Associations and Conferences would provide funds from Basic Support and other sources that are currently being budgeted for premium payment supplementation.

WHEREAS, The United Church of Christ voices and publicly acclaims its concern for human dignity for all peoples in all nations, so do we recognize and acknowledge our concern for those who have devoted a portion of their

lives in the furtherance of the church's obligations and mandates, as known and related to them; and

WHEREAS, there is no uniform practice among Associations and Conferences regarding payment assistance for health insurance premiums for retired ministers and spouses; and

WHEREAS, the current practice among Associations and Conferences is not equitable in that some provide 100% or 50% assistance for premium payments while others provide no assistance whatever; and

WHEREAS, the present supplementation policy does not provide assistance for all retirement brackets, and Conferences and Associations have had to provide assistance for the majority of UCC retired ministers; and

WHEREAS, the current funding practices among Associations and Conferences does affect the total mission of the United Church of Christ,

THEREFORE, the Fourteenth General Synod recommends that the Executive Council and the UCC Pension Boards gather information and develop a plan for a church-wide UCC payment policy of health insurance premiums for retired ministers, layworkers and spouses, including an implementation plan, to be presented to the Fifteenth General Synod in 1985; and

THEREFORE, the Fourteenth General Synod recommends that the Executive Council and the United Church of Christ Pension Boards implement by January 1, 1985 a uniform UCC supplementation policy regarding Health Insurance premiums for retired ministers, layworkers and spouses; and

That the Executive Council and the United Church of Christ Pension Boards in consultation with the Council of Conference Ministers develop supplementations guidelines and funding procedure for payment of retired ministers', layworkers' and spouses' health insurance premiums beyond current supplementation.

5. RESOLUTION ON AFFIRMING THE INTEGRITY OF THE BIBLE

Mr. Esbenschade continued the report of Section V, referred the delegates to Advance Materials V, page 41, moved the adoption of the Resolution on Affirming the Integrity of the Bible, and called on John Syster (FL) Chairperson to the small group that considered this resolution, to speak to the motion. There was discussion. It was

83 GS 67 VOTED: The Fourteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution on Affirming the Integrity of the Bible.

RESOLUTION ON AFFIRMING THE INTEGRITY OF THE BIBLE

WHEREAS, due to the proliferation of Bible translations and paraphrases, there is confusion among people in our churches in distinguishing the Bible from rewritten materials; and

WHEREAS, it is our concern that the United Church of Christ preserve the tradition in our heritage which encourages openness, scholarship, and sensitivity to the times, and at the same time maintain a responsible, canonical approach to the use of Scripture; and

WHEREAS, we believe that the church has continuing

responsibility to make available a body of Scripture which incorporates the latest and best scholarship and which can be depended upon as a basic text;

THEREFORE, the Fourteenth General Synod directs the Executive Council, requests the Instrumentalities and other national bodies to follow in all publications, worship, and in other official life of the United Church of Christ, and commends to the consideration of the Conferences, Associations, and churches, the following statement of consensus and standards for responsible use of Scripture:

Statement of Consensus:

Responsibility in leadership of worship, in writing of Material for publication in other public use of the Bible involves using only authorized translations of the Bible when a Scripture lesson or Bible quotation is called for.

We recognize that rewritten materials such as paraphrases, may be illuminating in the context of commentary, sermon, study, or other explication. Standards for Responsible use of Scripture:

Standards for Responsible Use of Scripture:

A. Quoting Scripture

These include, for example, the following English Version: Revised Standard Version (including) Oxford Annotated, King James Version, Jerusalem Bible, New English Bible, Today's English Version (also known as Good News Bible), and New International Version.

B. Using Rewritten Materials

Paraphrases, restatements, adaptations and modifications are materials rewritten for specific purposes (such as readability, sociological inclusive, theological amplification). These materials should not be used as if they were, nor in place of, an authorized version or translation of the Bible. These include, for example: Kenneth Taylor's paraphrase, *The Living Bible*; Clarence Jordan's *The Cotton Patch Version*; Joanna Haged's restatement, *The Word for Us*; and J. B. Phillips' paraphrase, *The New Testament in Modern English*.

C. Identification

Quotations from the Bible and rewritten materials should be identified in order to avoid confusion and to build understanding.

1. Scripture quotations should identify the Bible version or translation used. For example: John 1.1, Revised Standard Version. John 1.1, New English Bible.
2. Rewritten materials should identify who had done what kind of rewriting. For example: Kenneth Taylor's paraphrase of John 1.1; Joanne Haged's restatement of John 1.1.

The Moderator indicated that time had expired for considering the report of Section 5.

6. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE REPORT OF THE TASK FORCE FOR THE STUDY OF HUMAN SEXUALITY.

The Moderator called Rev. Frank Dietz (SC) Chairperson, to continue the report.

7. RESOLUTION IN RESPONSE TO THE CONCERNS OF SAME-GENDER ORIENTED PERSONS AND THEIR FAMILIES WITHIN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Mr. Dietz referred the delegates to Advance Material VI, pages 22-23, and to the report of the Committee noting certain changes and moved the adoption of the Resolution In Response to the Concerns of Same-Gender Oriented Persons and Their Families Within the United Church of Christ. There was discussion. It was

83 GS 68 VOTED: The Fourteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution In Response to the Concerns of Same-Gender Oriented Persons and Their Families Within the United Church of Christ.

RESOLUTION IN RESPONSE TO THE CONCERNS OF SAME-GENDER ORIENTED PERSONS AND THEIR FAMILIES WITHIN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WHEREAS, God calls us into the family of faith to share our joys and our sorrows, to serve God by serving our neighbor, to proclaim justice and to do justice, to personify the liberating Gospel of Christ, and to celebrate our Oneness as the people of God; and

WHEREAS, same-gender persons baptized and nurtured in the Christian faith in United Church of Christ congregations, and their families, are, no less than other United Church of Christ members, concerned about the welfare of the family; and

WHEREAS, serious pastoral concerns exist with regard to the oppressive attitudes which same-gender oriented persons and their families encounter in the church and in the society as a whole; and

WHEREAS, such attitudes often cause same-gender oriented youth and adults, spouses and children of same-gender oriented persons, parents of same-gender oriented persons, and other family members to experience alienation and isolation within the community of faith; and

WHEREAS, the Thirteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopted Family Life as a Priority of the United Church of Christ calling for all families to be ministered to creatively and for all persons regardless of their family patterns, to be affirmed and supported in the life of the church, manifesting our unity as a family in Christ; and

WHEREAS, the Family Life Priority Working Group has been commissioned with the responsibility to faithfully implement the Family Life Priority; and

WHEREAS, the concerns of same-gender oriented persons and their families are related to painful realities which merit serious consideration and action by the Family Life Priority Working Group, including, but not limited to, concern for recognition of the faithful familiar relationships of same-gender oriented persons; affirmation for same-gender oriented youth and adults; reconciliation within families seeking to cope with the knowledge that their families include one or more same-gender oriented children, spouse, parent or relative; sensitivity to the discrimination faced by same-gender oriented persons who are hospitalized and are denied the comforting