

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

presence of their beloved; advocacy for same-gender oriented persons seeking custody of their children; and response to the isolation which many same-gender oriented elderly persons experience, many of whom look to the church to be a supportive community in the often difficult final years of life; and

WHEREAS, the entire church, and especially congregational life, will be enriched through deepened awareness of the constellation of family life which exists within every United Church of Christ congregation; and

WHEREAS, United Church of Christ pastors are in need of resources and educational opportunities to enable them to better serve the same-gender oriented persons within their congregations and communities, and their families;

THEREFORE, the Fourteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ reaffirms the Family Life Priority commitment that "all families be ministered to creatively and that all persons regardless of their family patterns, be affirmed and supported in the life of the church, manifesting our unity as a family in Christ;" and recommends that the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries invite the United Church Coalition for Lesbian/Gay Concerns to participate as consultants to the Family Life Priority Working Group to articulate the concerns of same-gender oriented United Church members and their families.

**8. RESOLUTION TO RESCIND HUMAN SEXUALITY RECOMMENDATIONS 2-18**

Mr. Dietz continued the report of the Committee and referred the delegates to Advance Materials VI, pages 1-2 to the Resolution To Rescind Human Sexuality Recommendations 2-18 and reported that after study and review of the resolution that no action be taken by the General Synod.

**9. RESOLUTION ON CALLING ON UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CONGREGATIONS TO DECLARE THEMSELVES "MORE LIGHT" CHURCHES**

Mr. Dietz referred the delegates to Advance Materials VI, pages 5-6 to the Resolution on Calling on United Church of Christ Congregations to Declare Themselves "More Light" Churches, and moved that the Fourteenth General Synod forward the resolution to the Executive Council for referral to the appropriate Instrumentalities and other national bodies for study and possible action. There was discussion.

The Moderator recognized Sam Loliger (NY) who moved to amend the motion by substituting the original resolution for the motion to refer. There was discussion. A motion to terminate debate on the amendment and the original motion was adopted. Upon being put to a vote, the motion to substitute was lost. It was

83 GS 69 VOTED: The Fourteenth General Synod forwards the Resolution on Calling on United Church of Christ Congregations to Declare Themselves "More Light" Churches to the Executive Council for referral to the appropriate Instrumentalities and other national bodies for study and possible action.

**10. RESOLUTION ON HUMAN SEXUALITY**

Mr. Dietz referred to the Resolution on Human Sexuality submitted by the Northern California Conference and moved that it be received with thanks. It was

83 GS 70 VOTED: The Fourteenth General Synod

receives with thanks the Resolution on Human Sexuality submitted by the Northern California Conference.

**RESOLUTION ON HUMAN SEXUALITY**

WHEREAS, after four years of work, the Task Force on Human Sexuality will present its report to the Fourteenth General Synod in June, 1983.

WHEREAS, the Report keeps alive the discussion about human sexuality in the United Church of Christ and highlights the diversity of theological opinion in our church;

WHEREAS, it is clear that there is need for specific programs to be developed to carry on the implications of the report;

WHEREAS, the Northern California Conference has provided essential leadership in the United Church of Christ on issues of human sexuality since 1970, and the Conference Church and Mission Commission has had as one of its priorities, under justice and liberation, concerns around human sexuality.

WHEREAS, as a result of an overture from the National Council of Churches (1974), GS 10 directed the Executive Council to prepare "a study concerning the dynamics of human sexuality and the theological basis for a Christian ethic concerning human sexuality." Received by the Eleventh General Synod in 1977, *Human Sexuality: A Preliminary Study*, provided a good overview of the Biblical, theological and practical issues and concerns facing the church as it extends its ministry into this area of human experience;

WHEREAS, accepted with the study were 18 recommendations for implementation, further study and action which were assigned to the appropriate Instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ;

WHEREAS, these recommendations address issues ranging from family life, freedom of choice in reproductive rights, sex role stereotyping, sexual and domestic violence, education in human sexuality for clergy, laypersons, and in public schools, language and metaphor about God and sexual orientation and ordination, among others.

WHEREAS, the Task Force Report clarifies the language of some of the recommendations, affirms others, and recognizes that those dealing with issues of lifestyle and sexual orientation are the most controversial within the United Church of Christ.

WHEREAS, the Task Force also found that most of the recommendations had not been acted upon and there also has been movement among some members of the United Church of Christ to stop all action on them, an effort that was successful at the Thirteenth General Synod.

WHEREAS, the report also makes clear, action and programs undertaken by Instrumentalities happen because of the prompting and urging of conferences and other groups in the United Church of Christ who express their strong conviction that such programs are needed and not just because of the priorities of the Instrumentalities.

WHEREAS, the 22nd Annual Meeting of the Northern California Conference of the United Church of Christ, recognizing that the United Church of Christ has not yet faced in depth the issues of human sexuality in relation to