

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