

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

the ministry of the church, commends the importance of the 1977 report, *Human Sexuality: A Preliminary Study* and affirms the report of the Task Force on Human Sexuality to the 14th General Synod including its four recommendations.

**11. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PEACE RESOLUTIONS**

Assistant Moderator Richard F. Boyer assumed the chair and called on Leona Riebling (MI) Chairperson of the Committee on Peace Resolutions, to continue the report.

**12. RESOLUTION ON ALL CHURCH PEACE OFFERING**

Ms. Riebling moved the adoption of the Resolution on All Church Peace Offering, referred the delegates to Advance Materials V and to the June 23, 1983 report of the Executive Council, and called on Patricia Ross (CPC), Chairperson of the Small group that had considered this resolution, to speak to the motion. There was discussion.

The Moderator recognized Olivia White (SC) who moved to amend the motion by the deletion of the second sentence in the first paragraph and substituting for it the phrase "Twenty-five percent of the proceeds of such an offering to support the peacemaking efforts of the congregation(s), twenty-five percent of the proceeds to be held by the constituent Conference(s) in their peace efforts, and fifty percent to be used for peace efforts of the Instrumentalities and other national bodies." There was discussion. A motion to terminate debate on the motion to amend and the main motion was adopted. Upon being put to a vote, the motion to amend was adopted. It was

83 GS 71 VOTED: The Fourteenth General Synod adopts as amended the Resolution on All Church Peace Offering.

**RESOLUTION ON ALL CHURCH PEACE OFFERING**

The Fourteenth General Synod approves an All Church Peace Offering to be received on Pentecost Sunday in 1984 and 1985, twenty-five percent of the proceeds of such an offering to support the peace making efforts of the congregations, twenty-five percent of the proceeds to be held for use by the constituent Conferences in their peace efforts, and fifty percent to be used for peace efforts of the Instrumentalities and other national bodies. The Stewardship Council is requested to promote the offering and the Office for Church in Society is requested to administer the net receipts of the offering and report on its use to the Executive Council.

The Fourteenth General Synod refers the Resolution on All Church Peace Offering and the portion of the "Peace and Economic Justice" Resolution dealing with an annual peace and economic justice offering to the Executive Council and requests the Executive Council in consultation with the Stewardship Council to study the questions related to a Peace Offering, peace and economic justice funding, and the feasibility of making the next major fund drive of the United Church of Christ to support its peace related activities and make recommendations to the Fifteenth General Synod.

**13. RESOLUTION ON DIRECT INVESTMENT IN WEAPONS PRODUCERS**

Ms. Riebling continued the report of the Committee on

Peace Resolutions, moved the adoption of the Resolution on Direct Investment In Weapons Producers, referred to the resolution as printed in the New Business document, part I and to the recommendation of the Committee, and called on Loren Cope (OH) Chairperson of the Small group that handled this resolution, to speak to the motion. There was discussion. It was

83 GS 72 VOTED: The Fourteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution on Direct Investment In Weapons Producers.

**RESOLUTION ON DIRECT INVESTMENT IN WEAPONS PRODUCERS**

WHEREAS, when the Thirteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ voted to select Peace as a major priority, it urged that:

- the dependence of the United States and world economics on the production of armaments be reversed to the end that human and material resources be used to promote the quality of life for all persons;
- the arms race be reversed; and
- the development and use of nuclear and biochemical weapons be recognized as completely contrary to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

WHEREAS, the Sixth General Synod declared that "Social values and social justice ought to be given consideration together with security and yield in the investment of funds held by religious organizations."

WHEREAS, the report of the Committee on Finance Investment established by the Seventh General Synod and adopted by the Executive Council in 1970 approved of an exclusionary investment strategy in the following circumstances,

1. Where a corporate practice appears to be flagrantly in violation of Christian precepts as understood by the Church, and where no social investment initiatives are likely to affect corporate policy,
2. When the public announcement that the church organization would not purchase a particular corporate stock for specific reasons could be projected to have a greater impact than investing in the stock and pursuing an activist shareholder strategy.

WHEREAS, shareholder activist efforts to persuade corporations which make armaments to begin redividing production efforts away from military contracts have been of limited effectiveness.

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ Pension Boards, the United Church Board for World Ministries, the United Church Foundation and United Church Board for Homeland Ministries have adopted the following resolution in furtherance of the peace priority recognizing,

1. the need for prudence in the making and handling of investments of the Instrumentality, and
2. the concern of the Instrumentality for corporate responsibility in investment, the officers and committee members who have responsibility for investments are requested within their fiduciary responsibilities to bear in mind that it is important that there be a continuing commitment to peace and that companies which produce biological or chemical weapons or key