

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

nuclear components for nuclear warheads, or which manage United States Government facilities engaged in the production of nuclear weapons, or a substantial portion of whose business consists of military contracts may frustrate a continuing commitment to peace.

3. The Vermont Conference has formally committed itself to not invest in corporations whose practices appear to be in violation of Christian precepts.

AND WHEREAS, the United Church Board for World Ministries, the Northern California Conference, the Massachusetts Conference Congregational Fund, the Hawaii Conference, the New Hampshire Conference and the Connecticut Conference have adopted specific investment guidelines similar to or identical to the following, which exclude investments in corporations that are:

1. Direct contributors to nuclear weapons research and development, the production of key nuclear components for nuclear warheads, or the management of nuclear weapons facilities owned by the United States Government.
2. Direct contributors to biological or chemical weapons production or research and development.
3. Among the one hundred leading military contractors to the Department of Defense and who are dependent on military contracts for more than 20 percent of their sales (as determined by the average ratio of military contracts to sales in the most recent three-year period for which data are available).

THEREFORE, the Fourteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ commends those who have adopted a policy to commit themselves to peace in investment decisions, and especially commends those who have taken the further step of adopting specific guidelines excluding or limiting direct investments in weapons producers, and

FURTHER the Fourteenth General Synod recommends to all United Church of Christ Instrumentalities, Conferences, Associations, congregations and all other investing bodies and individuals the adoption of a policy of commitment to peace in investment decisions and the adoption of specific guidelines excluding or limiting direct investments in weapons producers.

14. RESOLUTION ON DEVELOPING THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AS A PEACE MAKING CHURCH

Mr. Cope as the chairperson of the small group that considered the Resolution on Developing the United Church of Christ as a Peace Church, moved the adoption of the resolution. There was discussion.

The Moderator recognized John Esbenshade (PC) who moved to amend the motion by adding the word "making" to the title of the resolution to be inserted between "Peace" and "Church." Upon being put to a vote the motion to amend was adopted.

The Moderator recognized Merrill Ressler (PSE) who moved to amend the motion by taking the fourth "WHEREAS" from the Resolution for Peace and Economic Justice Imperative and inserting it as the sixth "WHEREAS" in this resolution and by taking the first "Be It Resolved Further" from the Resolution for Peace and Economic Jus-

tice Imperative and inserting it as number 2 in the resolved section of this resolution. Upon being put to a vote the motion to amend was adopted. It was

83 GS 73 VOTED: The Fourteenth General Synod adopts as amended the Resolution on Developing the United Church of Christ as a Peace Making Church.

RESOLUTION ON DEVELOPING THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AS A PEACE MAKING CHURCH

WHEREAS, the Thirteenth General Synod called upon the United Church of Christ to become a Peace Making Church; and

WHEREAS, the church is in the process of reconsidering and withdrawing moral sanctions for nuclear weapons and the institution of war, and needs to identify the moral and ethical issues which still need to be resolved at this point in history; and

WHEREAS, nuclear war cannot be fought under the criteria for a just war, necessitating many Christians to rethink peace theology; and

WHEREAS, many Christians are considering whether the time has come for Christians to advocate that nations should unilaterally cease to threaten, use or possess nuclear weapons; and

WHEREAS, all nations and all Christians are called to recognize the relationship which exists between peace and justice, and to join with fresh dedication in the search for structures of peace and of justice which will move us away from the abyss; and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has opposed the identification of the peace issue with white communities and the justice issue with Third World and "minority" communities and insists that these two goals not compete with each other in the life of the church but rather be pursued in harmony; and

WHEREAS, the church, which has always been called to witness to the peace of God and to the Prince of Peace, needs to examine anew the demands of the Gospel and the demands of this moment in history for a new level of peace-making ministry; and

WHEREAS, new sources of money are needed either from an all-church offering, a capital funds drive, or some other source of major funding, if we are to take seriously the call to be a Peace Church and to offer the effective peace ministry now demanded of us;

THEREFORE, the Fourteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ:

1. Calls upon the Office for Church in Society to commission a Peace Theology Development Team to bring the Fifteenth General Synod in 1985 a Proposed Pronouncement designed to answer the following questions:
 - a. What is the theological base for considering the United Church of Christ to be a Peace Church?
 - b. What public policy would be consistent with this theological base and provide a coherent framework for the public witness of the United Church of Christ?