

Christ to consider the coverage of hospice care under their medical insurance plans.

Requests the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries to inform members of the church and others about the hospice concept, to serve as liaison to hospice organizations and develop a resource and communications network for United Church of Christ members involved in hospice care.

Requests the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries to monitor the implementation of legislation which provides for hospice care for all dying persons seeking that care.

21. REPORT OF SECTION II CONTINUED

Assistant Moderator Carl F. Schroer assumed the chair and called on the Rev. Robert B. Curry (ME) Chairperson, to continue the report of Section II.

22. RESOLUTION ON FAIR REPRESENTATION IN CONFERENCE DELEGATIONS TO THE GENERAL SYNOD

Mr. Curry referred the delegates to the two documents listing new business, pages 32 and 62 respectively, to the Section report, moved the adoption of the Resolution on Fair Representation In General Synod Delegations, and called on Noel Gelm (IS) Chairperson of the small group that considered this resolution, to speak to the motion. Mr. Gelm indicated that the resolution is a consolidation of the two resolutions indicated as new business and is related to the recent action of the General Synod in adopting the amendment to Bylaw 171, but goes a step further and gives additional direction to the Conferences. There was discussion. A motion to terminate debate was adopted, and it was

83 GS 78 VOTED: The Fourteenth General Synod adopts as amended the Resolution on Fair Minority Representation in Conference Delegations to the General Synod.

RESOLUTION ON FAIR MINORITY REPRESENTATION IN CONFERENCE DELEGATIONS TO THE GENERAL SYNOD

WHEREAS, the constituency of the United Church of Christ is diverse in many ways, particularly racially, and

WHEREAS, Bylaw 171 directs that the delegations from each Conference to the General Synod "shall reflect the United Church of Christ' commitment to affirmative action", and

WHEREAS, it was brought to the attention of the Fourteenth General Synod that several Conference delegations fell short of fair representation of minority constituencies,

THEREFORE, the Fourteenth General Synod requests that:

A complete report of minority representation on Conference delegations to the Fourteenth General Synod be assembled by the United Church of Christ Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action Coordinator and sent to Conference Ministers and all committees responsible for nominating General Synod delegates prior to their 1984 Annual Conference meetings, so that Conference Nominating Committees may be challenged and called upon to respond in good faith to Bylaw 171 in the selection of succeeding Conference delegations;

The Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action Coordinator, in consultation with the Executive Council, shall develop guidelines for use by Conferences in the selection of General Synod delegates which will assure fair representation of race, based on the minority and disabled constituencies of the respective Conferences;

Each Conference shall, within two months following the election of its Synod delegation, report to the Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action Coordinator on the composition of the delegation, and on its efforts to implement the Affirmative Action guidelines for selecting Conference delegates to the General Synod.

23. RESOLUTION ON THE STATUS OF THE FAMILY FARM

Mr. Curry continued the report of Section II, referred the delegates to part II of the new business report, to the Section report, moved the adoption of the Resolution on the Status of the Family Farm, and called on Earlene Hentzel (IA) Chairperson of the small group that considered the resolution, to speak to the motion. Ms. Hentzel noted certain editorial changes in the document and emphasized the importance of the resolution. There was discussion, and it was

83 GS 79 VOTED: The Fourteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution on the Status of the Family Farm.

THE STATUS OF THE FAMILY FARM

Introduction:

One of the most complex problems facing the United States government today is the financial crisis in agriculture. Partly the product of farmers' success in improving productivity and partly the product of farm policies which have failed to stabilize farm income, this crisis threatens to erode the family farm¹ base of American agriculture more than any development in our lifetimes.

Neither recent Congresses nor recent administrations have responded responsibly to this growing crisis. To the contrary, there has been a tendency on the part of public officials to avoid the issue by opening public credit programs to an ever-wider group of larger farms and offering tax concessions which encourage further expansion on the part of these farms. The result is more concentration in production, diminished economic opportunity for farms of modest means, and greater financial vulnerability for our food system as a whole. These trends undermine an owner-operated system of agriculture which a substantial body of scientific literature has established as the most efficient unit of production.²

Particularly grievous has been: (1) the steady deterioration in the services afforded small farmers with limited resources by the FmHA and the corresponding shift in that agency's emphasis to larger-than-family farms; and (2) the expansion of the investment tax credit, a superfluous subsidy to capital which invites unneeded investment by tax-motivated investors in areas of agriculture already sufficiently capitalized. These policies have tended to reward the rich at the expense of the poor, and to diminish economic justice.

The general direction of these and other policies is therefore viewed as contrary to the Pronouncement on RURAL AMERICA: LIFE AND ISSUES adopted by the