

*Ethical Consideration:*

It is in the context of our stewardship that we must set the special problem of hazardous wastes that surfaced so dramatically in this decade. Toxic chemicals, spent nuclear fuels, hazardous substances, air pollutants—a variety of by-products of modern technologies now pose serious health risks to both present and future generations.

To date, we are not fully cognizant of the potential health hazards of toxic wastes. Unless immediate and stringent measures are taken, irreversible damage may be done. State and federal laws have not sufficiently developed to cope with this present and future threat. Enforcement of existing law has become a national crisis.

If the by-products of industry continue to produce hazardous waste at the present increasing rate, we can expect dangerous amounts of toxic substances polluting land, water, and air. Land resources, including aquifers, are threatened. Presently, “at least 50% of the U.S. ground water, the sole source of drinking water for half of all Americans is either contaminated or threatened with contamination.”

Facing up to these environmental issues will be costly. When jobs are so desperately needed environmental concern causes tensions within communities. We must be sensitive to this. However, we are accountable to future generations as well as to present needs.

The Fourteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopts the following action plan:

1. Calls upon its members and all elements of its corporate life to pursue courses of action which promote environmental protection and social justice.
2. Urges the Office for Social Responsibility in Investments of the United Church Boards to encourage policies and develop guidelines for church agencies and churches that will consider the by-products of the corporations in which they invest, and will help them monitor their existing investments as to corporate responsibility.
3. Calls upon the Office for Church in Society to include in its agenda concerns, which it monitors for church attention and legislative action, national environmental policy including the handling of hazardous wastes.
4. Urges appropriate Instrumentalities to engage in educational programs that will raise the consciousness of our churches and members to the seriousness of environmental issues. This should include educational materials directed toward both children and adults.
5. Calls on its member conferences and churches to investigate the adequacy of environmental policy and protection at state and local levels of government.

**25. RESOLUTION ON SUPPORT OF VOTING ACCESSIBILITY FOR DISABLED PERSONS**

Mr. Curry continued the report of Section II, referred the delegates to the New Business document, Part II, page 32, to the Section report and moved the adoption of the Resolution on Support of Voting Accessibility for Disabled Persons. There was no discussion, and it was

83 GS 81 VOTED: The Fourteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution on Support of Voting Accessibility for Disabled Persons.

**RESOLUTION ON SUPPORT OF VOTING ACCESSIBILITY FOR DISABLED PERSONS**

WHEREAS, 1983 has been established as the Religious Year of the Disabled; and

WHEREAS, 1983 through 1992 has been declared as the Decade of the Disabled, and

WHEREAS, the National Committee on Persons with Disabilities of the United Church of Christ strongly advocates for the right of the Disabled; and

WHEREAS, equal access to voting polls is a necessary step toward independent living;

THEREFORE, The Fourteenth General Synod supports and urges support on all levels, legislation that guarantees voting accessibility for disabled persons;

Urges the delegates of the Fourteenth General Synod to take back to their Conferences, Associations and local churches, the need to support such legislation.

**26. RESOLUTION ON SUPPORT OF NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT**

Mr. Curry continued the report of Section II, referred the delegates to Advance Materials V, pages 144-145, to the Section report and moved the adoption of the Resolution on Support of New Church Development. There was no discussion, and it was

83 GS 82 VOTED: The Fourteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution on Support of New Church Development.

**RESOLUTION ON SUPPORT OF NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT**

WHEREAS, The United States has been and shall continue to experience a major migration of its population from the northern and mid-western states to the southern and western regions; and

WHEREAS, Ninety percent of the United States population growth has occurred in the southern and western regions between 1960 and 1980; and

WHEREAS, The United Church of Christ now has only 18% of its congregations in the western and southern regions; and

WHEREAS, During its twenty-five year history the United Church of Christ has experienced a net loss of approximately fifteen hundred churches and over one-half million members; and

WHEREAS, Between 1960 and 1980 the population of the United States has increased by 24% while the membership of the United Church of Christ has declined by 16%; and

WHEREAS, The strength of the United Church of Christ's ministry in all areas is directly related to the strength and viability of its institutional base as a truly national church;

The Fourteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ strongly urges that the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, through its Division of Evangelism and Church Extension, re-affirm and strengthen its commitment of the mission of new church development throughout the United States with special emphasis in the southern and western regions.