

The Fourteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopts as a mission goal the care and strengthening of the institutional church through the development of new churches in the southern and western regions of the United States.

27. REPORT OF SECTION III CONTINUED

The Moderator called on Mr. Donald H. Kludy (SOC) Chairperson, to continue the report of Section III.

28. RESOLUTION ON REAFFIRMATION OF SUPPORT FOR THE JUSTICE DEMANDS OF JAPANESE AMERICANS

Mr. Kludy referred the delegates to Advance Materials VI, pages 20-21, to the Section report, moved the adoption of the Resolution on Reaffirmation of Support for the Justice Demands of Japanese Americans, and called on Margaret Ulery (IL) Chairperson on the small group that considered this resolution, to speak to the motion. There was discussion.

The Moderator recognized David C. Smith (PNE) who moved to amend the motion by the deletion of the first of the first paragraph in the resolved section. 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 the motion was lost. It was

83 GS 83 VOTED: The Fourteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution on Reaffirmation of Support for the Justice Demands of Japanese Americans

RESOLUTION ON REAFFIRMATION OF SUPPORT FOR THE JUSTICE DEMANDS OF JAPANESE AMERICANS

WHEREAS, the Thirteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ in 1981 passed a resolution endorsing the redress and reparations of the gross injustices committed against the Japanese Americans who were held prisoners by their own country under Executive Order 9066; and

WHEREAS, the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians after 1 1/2 years of study and hearings, has issued its findings entitled, "Personal Justice Denied." The study concludes there was no military or security justification for the mass relocation and internment of 120,000 Japanese American citizens during World War II. Rather it identifies the causes of detention as racism, war hysteria, and the failure of political leadership; and

WHEREAS, the damage done by our country to its own citizens was deep and scarring, taking its toll in heavy economic losses, interruption of families' lives and careers, the curtailment of personal liberties, and the shame and stigma of a people who know their own innocence; and

WHEREAS, our country was also scarred by this chapter of darkness in its history;

THEREFORE, the Fourteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ commends the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians for the completion and reporting of its findings; and

The Fourteenth General Synod, while recognizing that our Japanese American brothers and sisters can never be fully compensated for their suffering, urges that Congress act

immediately on the recommendations of the Commission, including:

1. That living victims of the incarceration be awarded a compensation of \$20,000 each, and
2. That the United States Government offer a formal apology for the indignity imposed on Japanese Americans who were involuntarily imprisoned, and
3. That a presidential pardon be granted for an estimated of 15 to 25 individuals who were convicted of violating a curfew imposed on people of Japanese descent for refusing to report for relocation.

29. RESOLUTION ON ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION FOR NON-DANGEROUS CRIMES

Mr. Kludy referred the delegates to Advance Materials VI, pages 6-7, to the Section report, moved the adoption of the Resolution on Alternatives to Incarceration for Non-Dangerous Crimes, and called on Edith O'Donnell (CT) Chairperson of the small group that considered this resolution, to speak to the motion. Ms. O'Donnell indicated the change in the title and in the content of the resolution. The Moderator indicated that time had expired for the Section report and called for a vote on the Resolution. It was

83 GS 84 VOTED: The Fourteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution on Alternatives to Incarceration for Non-Dangerous Crimes.

RESOLUTION ON ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION FOR NON-DANGEROUS CRIMES

WHEREAS Jesus presents us with a message of love and concern, exemplified by his caring not only for beggars and the sick, but also for tax collectors, who were assumed to be stealing from their people; and

WHEREAS our faith teaches us that healing of a community must involve restitution for the evil done, to restore shalom, peace in the community (Exodus 22:5-6); and

WHEREAS our criminal justice system generally does not permit the offender and victim in a non-dangerous crime the alternative to settle differences between themselves, but leaves the victim without recompense, and sentences the offender to a prison term so that neither victim nor offender receive justice, and wholeness is not restored, and injustice piles upon injustice, and

WHEREAS, some alternative to incarceration for non-dangerous crimes that includes restitution will offer some portion of justice to the victim, help reduce the overload of prison facilities and give the offender a way to be re-established as a part of the community;

THEREFORE, the Fourteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ supports increased use of restitution and mediation practices in order to allow victim and offender to face each other, and thereby, with the help of appropriate personnel, work out a reconciliation that will foster healing in the community; and

The Fourteenth General Synod supports greater use of community service, work release, educational release, furloughs, and other alternatives to prison; and calls upon the Commission for Racial Justice to develop strategies for Conferences and local churches to assist with implementation; and that this resolution be distributed by the Fourteenth General Synod to the governors of every state, to President Ronald Reagan, and to state legislatures.

10. RECOGNITION OF BETTY JANE BAILEY, ALLEN KROEHLER AND MARY ANN NEEVEL

The Moderator recognized Richard Mann (ILS) who paid tribute to the Rev. Betty Jane Bailey, Coordinator of the General Synod process and the training of the Chairpersons, and her associates, the Rev. Allen Kroehler and the Rev. Mary Ann Neevel, who received the standing applause of the General Synod.

11. RECONSIDERATION OF THE RESOLUTION ON ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION FOR NON-DANGEROUS CRIMES

The Moderator recognized Jonathan Tetherly (MA), who moved to reconsider the Resolution on Alternatives to Incarceration for Non-Dangerous Crimes. There was no discussion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion to reconsider lost.

12. REPORT OF THE COUNCIL ON ECUMENISM

The Moderator called on the Rev. Martha Baumer, Chairperson, to continue the report of the Executive Council. Ms. Baumer called on Ms. Dorothy Berry, Chairperson of the Council on Ecumenism, who made the following statement on behalf of the Council for Ecumenism.

“The Council for Ecumenism exists to advise both the President and the Executive Council on matters pertaining to the ecumenical agenda. The Council does not do ecumenism for the Church; it attempts to focus the myriad ways in which the United Church of Christ participates actively in the ecumenical agenda nationally and internationally, as well as in local communities and on the Conference level.

Specifically:

Your Council monitors our participation in the four ecumenical agencies specified in our Bylaws: The World and National Councils of Churches, the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, and the Consultation on Church Union;

Your Council coordinates the discussion of and reactions to the theological affirmations being worked out in the Consultation on Church Union;

Your Council will manage the process by which our church adds its voice and wisdom to the world-wide consensus growing on Baptism, Eucharist, and Ministry, as formulated and sent to all the churches from the Lima meeting of the World Council’s Faith and Order Commission;

Your Council monitors the work of the Steering Committee for the Covenant between the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ);

Your Council administers the Robert V. Moss Fund for Ecumenical Leadership, which this year awarded three scholarships to United Church of Christ members pursuing opportunities for training in ecumenical concerns.

Next month, the Sixth Assembly of the World Council will be held on our continent, the first time since 1954, and the United Church of Christ will have eight voting delegates in attendance, along with 27 Accredited Visitors. We would like you to meet and greet these persons who will represent us, and send them off with our hopes and God’s blessing.

Leading our delegation will be our President, Avery D. Post. Accompanying him will be the Rev. Martha Baumer, the Chairperson of the Executive Council of New Mexico;

the Rev. Scott Libbey, Iowa Conference Minister; Mr. Marvin Ludwig of the Ohio Conference; Ms. Julia Nakamura of the Illinois Conference; Ms. Valerie Russell of the Massachusetts Conference; the Rev. Harold Wilke of the New York Conference; and the Rev. Bertrice Wood of the staff of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries.

Your Council commits itself to striving in various ways to keep before all of us our call to unity and mission, and our stance as a united and uniting church.”

The full report of the Council on Ecumenism is printed in the Appendix.

13. RESOLUTION REGARDING PUBLIC EDUCATION

The Moderator called on the Rev. Martha Baumer as Chairperson of the Business Committee, who referred the delegates to Advance Materials VI, page 9, and moved the adoption of the Resolution Regarding Public Education. There was discussion, and it was

83 GS 92 VOTED: The Fourteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ reaffirms the longstanding commitment of the United Church of Christ to quality, integrated public education as the right of every child; and

The Fourteenth General Synod requests the Executive Council to consider requesting the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries to prepare a Proposed Pronouncement for the consideration of the Fifteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ on public education.

14. RESOLUTION ON RURAL AMERICA

Ms. Baumer continued the report of the Business Committee, referred the delegates to Advance Materials VI, page 11, to the Resolution on Rural America and moved its adoption. There was discussion, and it was

83 GS 93 VOTED: The Fourteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution on Rural America.

RESOLUTION ON RURAL AMERICA

WHEREAS, the Twelfth General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopted a pronouncement entitled: *Rural America: Life and Issues* in which we:

- a. called for stewardship of natural resources.
- b. recommended the strengthening of rural business economics while affirming the right of workers to equity and justice.
- c. renewed support of the small and medium sized family farm as the most important unit in American agriculture.
- d. called for the government and private sector to improve community services and encourage community development, and

WHEREAS, the recession since 1979 has caused more deterioration in Rural America, as well as Urban America, than anyone five years ago could have predicted, resulting in:

- a. more bankruptcies and foreclosures than at any time in America’s history since the Great Depression;
- b. a rising rate of mental stress-related family problems such as spouse and child abuse, suicide, and depression;
- c. an increase in physical distress and illness coupled with a continued exodus of health services from small communities;