

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 28

Laywomen

June A. Russell (NH)
Elaine Stanley (MO)
Donna J. Steiner (OH)
Reva A. Swanson (MI)
Joan M. Wagner (IK)
Joanna Wolfe (CAC)
Jeanne B. Barnett (CAC)
Helen K. Beretz (CA.SY)
Bette Anne Crowell (CT)

Karen P. Dietz (SC)
Carolyn C. Donaldson (OH)
Mae Jane Eberhardt (MO)
Fern M. Ebertz (MT)
Elizabeth Engelsdorfer (IS)
Mildred E. Gamon (WA)
Frances B. Graham (ME)
Frances J. Griebel (IS)
Eileen J. Kruse (IA)

Elizabeth A. Long (OH)
Nancy N. Miller (CAL.S)
Ruth Mojica-Hammer (IL)
Harriet V. Parkhurst (IL)
MaryAnn Peterson (MN)
Meredith J. Pirazzini (WI)
Rebecca Seldomridge (PSE)

Nominating Class, 1989

Laypersons: Mrs. Randy Whitman (SD)
Mrs. Pamela Reynolds (VT)
Mrs. Yuri Okamoto (CAL.N)

Clergy: Rev. Orville Zimmerman (ND)
Rev. Patricia Ross (CPA)
Rev. Alberto Filomino (PSE)

38. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Moderator called on Secretary Evans for the announcements.

39. RECESS

The Moderator declared the General Synod in recess at 5:40 p.m.

TUESDAY EVENING, JUNE 28

1. CALL TO ORDER

The General Synod was called to order at 7:35 p.m., by the Moderator, Helen I. Barnhill.

2. DESIGNATION OF THE SUNDAY OFFERING

The Moderator recognized Jonathan Knight (IL) who on a point of personal privilege, suggested that the Sunday offering be designated for a special cause or celebration since this was a special gathering of the United Church of Christ family. He also suggested that the offering might be designated as seed money for the newly adopted Youth and Youth Adult Ministries Priority. This matter was referred to the Executive Council.

3. AMENDMENT OF THE STANDING RULES

The Moderator recognized Norman Sirnic (SC) who moved to amend the Standing Rules by placing a period after the word "source" in the last sentence in paragraph C-3a-2. With the agreement of Mr. Sirnic, the Moderator referred the issue to the Executive Council.

4. RECONSIDERATION OF BYLAWS 102 AND 105

The Moderator recognized Susan Dickman, Business Committee, who moved to reconsider the amendments to paragraphs 102 and 105 of the Constitution and Bylaws. Ms. Dickman explained that the New Hampshire Conference had desired to introduce a motion to amend these paragraphs but were not at the microphones when the paragraphs were acted upon by the General Synod. Douglas Hatfield (NH) was recognized and also urged reconsideration of these paragraphs. The Moderator called for the vote on the motion to reconsider and upon a standing division of the General Synod, the Moderator declared the motion to reconsider was lost.

5. REPORT OF THE AGENDA COMMITTEE

The Moderator called on the Rev. Cally Rogers-Witte who gave an outline of the business to be handled at this last session of the Fourteenth General Synod.

6. REPORT OF SECTION V, CONTINUED

The Moderator called on John F. Esbenshade (PC) to continue the report of Section V.

7. RESOLUTION ON SUPPORT OF PENSION PROTECTION FOR LAY EMPLOYEES

Mr. Esbenshade referred the delegates to Advance Materials V, pages 168-169, to the Section report, moved the adoption of the Resolution on Support of Pension Protection for Lay Employees, and called on James Walters (PC), Chairperson of the small group that considered this resolution to speak to the motion. There was no discussion, and it was

83 GS 89 VOTED: The Fourteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution on Support of Pension Protection for Lay Employees.

RESOLUTION ON SUPPORT OF PENSION PROTECTION FOR LAY EMPLOYEES

WHEREAS the Twelfth General Synod affirmed the obligation of United Church of Christ employers to provide complete retirement benefits, part of a full range of benefits, as a necessary protection for all employees,

WHEREAS the provision of such protection is an appropriate response to the biblical mandate for justice and recognizes that the Church's struggle for economic and social justice in the society must include fair wages and benefits for its own workers, who are often deprived of economic protection,

WHEREAS local churches, Associations, Conferences, national Instrumentalities, and church-related institutions employ large numbers of lay employees, many of whom at this time have no such protection through either the Social Security system or an annuity plan,

WHEREAS the majority of lay employees of local churches are women, many of them entering or returning to the work force after having been homemakers for the major part of their lives and hence without access to pension

protection in their own right through either the Social Security system or an annuity plan,

WHEREAS local churches hire lay employees such as secretaries, custodians, organists, choir directors and directors of Christian Education, many of whom are employed only part-time, and often fail to join the Social Security system, rendering these lay employees utterly without protection,

WHEREAS Associations and Conferences demonstrate, by their actions, leadership for churches and church-related institutions,

WHEREAS lay employees, whether full-time or part-time, need the protection of the Social Security system and an additional annuity plan in order to accrue benefits at all their positions in order to acquire adequate total pension benefits for retirement, and

WHEREAS the Pension Boards, through the Retirement Fund for Lay Workers, does provide an annuity plan vehicle for providing additional pension protection for lay employees,

THEREFORE, The Fourteenth General Synod:

REQUESTS the Office for Church Life and Leadership, in cooperation with the Pension Boards, to undertake a vigorous program of education with United Church of Christ churches, Associations, Conferences, national Instrumentalities and UCC-related institutions concerning the pension needs of lay church employees and the need to participate in both the Social Security system and the Retirement Fund for Lay Workers,

URGES all Associations and Conferences to adopt personnel policies which assure Social Security and annuity protection for each member of their staffs,

URGES all local churches, Associations, Conferences, national Instrumentalities and church-related institutions to participate in the Social Security system and to enroll their lay employees, both full-time and part-time, in the Retirement Fund for Lay Workers, or some other adequate plan, and to pay the recommended dues on their behalf,

URGES Associations and Conferences to assist local churches in understanding the importance and ethical imperative of their providing adequate pension protection for their lay employees and to assist the churches in taking the necessary steps to secure needed coverage,

URGES the Office for Church Life and Leadership and the Board for Homeland Ministries to include the need for adequate pension protection for lay employees in all their publications and planning for meetings and events addressing the concerns of lay employees, and

URGES the Association of United Church Educators to continue to advocate for adequate pension protection for lay Christian educators.

8. RESOLUTION ON ASSURING THE FUTURE OF CHURCH-RELATED AND OTHER INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Mr. Esbenshade continued the report of Section V, referred the delegates to the Section report, moved the adoption of the Resolution on Assuring the Future of Church-Related and Other Independent Colleges and

Universities, and called on Jean Thomas (PNE), Chairperson of the small group that had considered the resolution, to speak to the motion. There was no discussion, and it was

83 GS 90 VOTED: The Fourteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution on Assuring the Future of Church-Related and Other Independent Colleges and Universities.

RESOLUTION ON ASSURING THE FUTURE OF CHURCH-RELATED AND OTHER INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

WHEREAS the historic involvement of the United Church of Christ and each of its four predecessor communions in the founding and nurturing of independent educational institutions and in support for education at all levels represents a proud heritage of more than three centuries of service to church and society;

WHEREAS the contemporary involvement of the United Church of Christ in education at all levels and its support, in particular, for thirty independent liberal arts colleges which are members of the Council for Higher Education of the United Church of Christ represent continuing commitments to higher learning and to partnership between church and school as integral parts of the church's mission for its own life and the elevation of society;

WHEREAS the American system of higher education, equality of opportunity and the quality of life in our democratic society are enhanced because of the viable presence of both government-sponsored and independent educational institutions which each serve the public good;

WHEREAS the continued viability, and service of many church-related and other small, independent colleges and universities, including most of the colleges related to the United Church of Christ, are gravely threatened by the economic realities of the day, including small endowments, less wealthy alumni and friends, and declining student enrollments, especially among lower and middle-income students, because of cut-backs in student aid by government and increasing competition from state universities and colleges;

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ has committed itself through several earlier actions of General Synods: "To join with the Council for Higher Education in seeking continued and increased United Church of Christ support at national, Conference, Association and local levels for each of the institutions through a variety of means";

The Fourteenth General Synod, United Church of Christ, calls upon the United Church of Christ at all levels:

1. To renew commitment to education in general and to church-related and other independent colleges and universities in particular;
2. To continue to endorse and participate in support programs which call the educational institutions related to the United Church of Christ to the attention of prospective students, and which seek increased visibility for, and awareness of, church-related higher education within the United Church of Christ; and
3. To support efforts to achieve closer cooperation with educational institutions related to the United Church of Christ, including the establishment of Conference