

**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;