

**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;

- d. a continuing decline of small communities and their services to people;
- e. a critical decline in our churches in small communities and in clergy/laity morale;
- f. a continual deterioration of public schools and tax support for them.

THEREFORE, the Fourteenth General Synod requests that those who are responsible for planning the Fifteenth General Synod, to meet in Ames, Iowa in 1985, consider "*Rural America: Life and Issues*" and the issues raised in the pronouncement of the Twelfth General Synod as a basis for themes and issues to be confronted in the Fifteenth General Synod.

#### 15. EDITORIAL AUTHORIZATION

Ms. Baumer continued, and on behalf of the Business Committee, moved editorial authorization for the Secretary of the Church, and it was

84 GS 94 VOTED: The Fourteenth General Synod authorizes the Secretary of the Church to make such editorial changes in the enactments of this General Synod as in his/her judgment does not change the intent, but which may be necessary to achieve consistency, continuity and clarity in the completion of the minutes of the Fourteenth General Synod. The General Synod further authorizes the Secretary to arrange the sequence of paragraphs within the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ in the proper order, so as to make all numbers consecutive and clear following such amendments to the Bylaws and Constitution as have been adopted by the Fourteenth General Synod.

#### 16. RECOGNITION OF CALLY ROGERS-WITTE

Ms. Baumer on behalf of the Business Committee, acknowledged the work of Cally Rogers-Witte as the Chairperson of the Program and Planning Committee of the Fourteenth General Synod and as Chairperson of the Agenda Committee of the Business Committee. Ms. Rogers-Witte received the standing applause of the General Synod and reported on the items to be considered for the remainder of the session, moved the session be extended for one hour and upon being put to a vote, the motion was adopted.

#### 17. YOUTH DELEGATES REFLECTIONS

The Moderator called on Christa Harris (ILS) and Dennis Langdon (IL) who spoke on Reflections on the Fourteenth General Synod and Hopes and Dreams for the Future.

Christa Harris said:

"I am Christa Harris from Illinois South Conference. I am with Y.U.M., Youth United in Ministries. This has been a wild week, very busy for all of us. We (the youth) want to thank you all for making Youth and Young Adult Ministries a Priority. You've shown that you care. We are very proud of our accomplishments. It all started with one meeting that led to a caucus. The caucus led to a brochure. We thought about it, planned it, and then did it. We also talked to our own Conferences, explained how important this is to us, and how it can be important to everyone. Different youth attended various Section meetings and the Committee meeting on Priorities. A letter was read to the delegates by a

delegate from Illinois. We were not going to give up. After the Youth and Young Adult Ministries became the Priority, one delegate asked a youth, 'Well, how do you feel now that it is all over?' The youth answered, 'It's not over, it's only begun.' And this is how we all feel. We know the work it took to make this a Priority, and we know that it will be equally if not more work to get this going."

"When I asked the youth what some of their dreams and hopes for the future are, I was surprised with some answers. I picked out a few to share with you:

. . . We need special, skilled, trained people to lead us in youth-young adult ministry.

The stronger Conference groups can help the weaker Conference groups get their act together.

The youth want a National Newsletter, so everyone knows what's going on.

More resources to enhance our spiritual life.

The goal for the next General Synod is 500 youth participants!

I would like to thank everyone who helped us, especially Randy Furushima and Linda Phelps. Also, I would like to thank all the youth. These next four years are ours."

Dennis Langdon said:

"Good evening, Brothers and Sisters in Christ. This has been a long, grueling and extremely rewarding process for us all. At this time, speaking as a representative of the youth and young adults, I wish first of all to thank you, the delegates, for service rendered far in excess of any humble word of praise I may offer. You have allowed us to interrupt your meals, listened attentively even when you were dying from exhaustion, and read through the church equivalent of war and peace. For this, I cannot express enough gratitude. To you, the youth a great thanks goes out for causing such a stirring in the land as to awaken new perception and dispelling old myths. To you, Linda Phelps, and Randy Furushima, thank you for untiring dedication even in the face of confusion and chaos. To all who have made General Synod an event, thank you."

"I have been assigned the task of presenting the youth and young adults' hopes for the future, but I feel a greater mission, and that is to give a charge to all the Church: To us, my peers, I challenge you to accept the Youth and Young Adult Ministry Priority not as a victory, but as a responsibility, to return to your local churches, Associations, Conferences and continue what I like to call "a movement." Spread the news of Synod, then act positively and affirmatively on it."

"To you, the delegates, without whom none of this would have been possible, I would challenge you to be supportive of those issues passed, to take the news of Synod not only back to your church, but to all churches in your mission councils. To recommend ardently that those issues decided at Synod not be taken lightly, so as to diminish the value of Synod."

"To us, the Church, I challenge us to recognize the evil dragon, and to make it our priority always to slay it. For if we fight it and lose, at least, at the very least, we are on record as being in opposition. For anything less would be the greatest sin of this and any other church."

"Thank you."