

**20. RESOLUTION ON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FROM AFRO-AMERICAN MULTI-LINGUAL AND MULTI-CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES**

The Moderator indicated that time had expired for considering the report of the Committee on Peace Resolutions and called for the continuation of the report of Section IV.

Ms. Mary Ann Cope (PSE), Chairperson of Section IV, continued the report, referred the delegates to the Section report, pages 8-9, moved the adoption of the Resolution on Christian Education from Afro-American, Multi-Lingual and Multi-Cultural Perspectives, and called on Carol Warnick (PC), Chairperson of the small group that considered this resolution, to speak to the motion. There was no discussion, and it was

83 GS 97 VOTED: The Fourteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution on Christian Education from Afro-American, Multi-Lingual and Multi-Cultural Perspectives.

**RESOLUTION ON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MATERIALS FROM AFRO-AMERICAN, MULTI-LINGUAL AND MULTI-CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES**

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ at the Thirteenth General Synod adopted the pronouncement "Christian Education: The Teaching Ministry of the Church"; and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has recognized the need for Christian Educational materials from shared approaches, and is an active participant (as one of the twelve denominations) in the Joint Educational Development group (JED); and

WHEREAS, Black Education Resource Development (BERD), an ecumenical project including the United Church of Christ and endorsed by the Joint Educational Development group, and has developed the "Faith Journey" series, being Christian Educational materials from a Black perspective; and

WHEREAS, both JED and BERD have developed materials which are premised on "Knowing the Word, Living the Word, Doing the Word and Interpreting the Word"; and

WHEREAS, JED has a promotional program for its materials, seeking to educate the participating denominations and member churches on the value of said JED materials, but said promotional program does not adequately include the BERD materials, other than that of tacit mention of the "Faith Journey" series;

THEREFORE, the Fourteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ

Urges the Joint Educational Development (JED) group to include promotional material to introduce the Black Educational Resource Development (BERD) Christian Education materials, "Faith Journey," and other multi-lingual and multi-cultural materials as part of its nationwide presentation of its Christian Education Resources to all churches and especially those Afro-American, multi-cultural and multi-lingual congregations.

Urges that the Black Educational Resource Development materials and other appropriate multi-lingual and multi-cultural educational materials become an integral part of any materials produced and promoted.

Urges each Association's or Conference's Committee of Christian Education to support actively its denomination's goal of being a unifying church by providing and promoting

the Black Educational Resource Development materials and other appropriate multi-lingual and multi-cultural educational materials as a positive means of uniting the various United Church of Christ constituencies through acquisition of materials as resources.

**21. RESOLUTION ON SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL AND THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES**

Ms. Cope continued the report of Section IV, referred the delegates to the New Business document, part 1, pages 11 and 23, to the Section report, moved the adoption of the Resolution on Support of the National Council of Churches and the World Council of Churches and called on Shannon Clarkson (CT), Chairperson of the small group that considered this resolution, to speak to the motion. Ms. Clarkson indicated that the two resolutions had been consolidated into a single resolution as recommended in the Section report. There was no discussion, and it was

83 GS 98 VOTED: The Fourteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution on Support of the National Council of Churches and the World Council of Churches.

**RESOLUTION ON SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES AND THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES**

Although there has been disagreement with some positions and actions of the National Council of Churches and the World Council of Churches, this resolution affirms the national and international ecumenical ministries of our church through these Councils. It recognizes the limitations and even the fallibility of such endeavors, yet it calls for responsiveness on the part of church leaders to constituent members so that together we might understand and support ecumenical ministries at local, national and international levels;

WHEREAS, the theological and Biblical basis for ecumenical ministry is found in the challenge of the gospel to all of God's church to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothing to the naked and compassion to the prisoner (Matthew 25); and

WHEREAS, the gospel suggests that we can ill afford to allow petty divisions to keep us from implementing that crucial ministry; as the apostle Paul proclaimed, Christ is not divided. Indeed, we are called to be one, both in spirit and labor (I Cor. 1:12); and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ upholds ecumenical ministries as an essential mission of the church; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the need of local churches to know where their money is going and how it is spent, to be informed and to assume ownership of the larger stewardship of the church and to proclaim responsibility for ecumenical ministries.

THEREFORE, the Fourteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ expresses its appreciation for the work and ministry of the World Council of Churches and the National Council of Churches;

Calls upon local churches to become more aware of and involved in the ecumenical work of the United Church of Christ at local, Conference, national and international levels, including denominational participation in the

National Council and the World Council of Churches;

Urges the appropriate Instrumentalities to educate the members of the United Church of Christ on the need and nature of local, national and global ecumenical ministry, and that appropriate programs be developed at each level of our institutional life to accomplish this end.

**22. RESOLUTION ON ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING NEWBORN INFANTS**

Ms. Cope continued the report of Section IV, referred the delegates to Advance Materials VI, page 1, to the Section Report, moved the adoption of the Resolution on Ethical Considerations Regarding Newborn Infants, and called on Lee Zortman (PC), Chairperson of the small group that considered this resolution, to speak to the motion. Mr. Zortman indicated the change in the title of the resolution and the reasons for changing the resolution to its present form. There was no discussion, and it was

83 GS 99 VOTED: The Fourteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution on Ethical Considerations Regarding Newborn Infants.

**RESOLUTION ON ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING NEWBORN INFANTS**

WHEREAS, the gospel assures us of God's infinite love for every human being; and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has adopted a priority supporting family life; and

WHEREAS, the birth of severely handicapped or "abnormal" children frequently confronts physicians and parents with extremely difficult ethical choices—often matters of life and death;

The Fourteenth General Synod calls upon the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries and the Office for Church in Society to study the nature of such decisions and the ethical implications of our faith, and prepare materials for the guidance of those involved in these dilemmas; and

Calls upon the churches to make every effort to seek ways to provide loving care for all "unwanted" and/or handicapped children; and

The United Church of Christ is urged to explore ways to relieve the extra burden which handicapped children may place on parents and find ways to provide physical, spiritual and emotional assistance to parents of handicapped or "unwanted" children.

**23. RESOLUTION ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

Ms. Cope continued the report of Section IV, referred the delegates to the New Business document, part II, page 51, to the Section report, moved the adoption of the Resolution on Substance Abuse, and called on the Rev. Lee Zortman (PC), Chairperson of the small group that considered this resolution, to speak to the motion. Mr. Zortman noted the changes in the resolution as recommended in the Section report. There was no discussion, and it was

83 GS 100 VOTED: The Fourteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution on Substance Abuse.

**RESOLUTION ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

WHEREAS, Jesus presents us with a message of love and concern exemplified by his compassion for persons; and

WHEREAS, the Church's task is to carry on the ministry of compassionate concern; and

WHEREAS, substance abuse is a critical "societal" problem which affects persons of all ages, contributes to domestic and public violence, and threatens our ability to be good stewards of God's gifts; and

WHEREAS, this abuse results in tragedies with intolerable cost to individuals, societies and families of its victims including death;

THEREFORE, the Fourteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ recommends that the United Church of Christ, through its local congregations, Associations, Conferences and Instrumentalities affirm and support the efforts of those social, civic and governmental agencies involved in alleviating these tragedies; and

That a resource list of agencies involved in education and service in these areas, with suggestions for individual and local church involvement, be developed by appropriate Instrumentalities as designated by the Executive Council, and promoted throughout the United Church of Christ; and

That the local congregations of the United Church of Christ undertake specific and intentional ministries to prevent substance abuse and to care for all who suffer from its consequences.

**24. RESOLUTION ON FAMILY LIFE SUPPORT AND OPPOSITION TO THE FAMILY PROTECTION ACT**

Ms. Cope moved that no action be taken on this resolution and it was adopted. This concluded the report of Section IV.

**25. RESOLUTION ON CHURCH MEMBERSHIP GROWTH GOALS**

The Moderator called on the Rev. Robert B. Curry (ME) to continue the report of Section II. Mr. Curry referred the delegates to the Section report, moved the adoption of the Resolution on Church Membership Growth Goals, and called on Beatrice Starret (KO), Chairperson of the small group that considered this resolution, to speak to the motion. There was no discussion, and it was

83 GS 101 VOTED: The Fourteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution on Church Membership Growth Goals.

**RESOLUTION ON CHURCH MEMBERSHIP GROWTH GOALS**

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has experienced a significant decline in membership,

WHEREAS, it is essential to the future work and ministry of the United Church of Christ that the decline in membership be reversed,

WHEREAS, the New Initiatives in Church Development program has restimulated evangelical zeal within Conferences of the United Church of Christ,

WHEREAS, several Conferences have voted to call for the development of membership growth goals by the Conferences and local churches,

THEREFORE, the Fourteenth General Synod calls upon the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries to develop a procedure whereby membership growth goals may be established by Conferences and local churches.