

SUNDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 30

Rev. Mark Meckstroth (PC) moved to add a new first started paragraph to read "to grow in Christ and His mission." This amendment was defeated.

It was moved to close debate and call for the question, and it was,

85-GS-32 VOTED: The Fifteenth General Synod adopts the Proposed Goal Statement, and the Proposed Designation of Implementors and a National Body as Coordinator, for Spiritual Renewal: A Proposed Priority.

GOAL STATEMENT

To enlist all members of the United Church of Christ in study and action to the end that all members of the UCC are provided with the opportunity to understand and experience the meaning of spiritual renewal or spiritual growth in their personal and corporate lives, thereby forming the basis of Christian discipleship in the world, by:

identifying and recognizing the rich diversity of spiritual experience and practice within the Christian tradition, the UCC heritage and the traditions of other religions;

providing resources which promote and undergird spiritual renewal and empowerment for congregations, families, and individuals;

providing resources for and promoting the practice of spiritual disciplines among UCC members, groups, and congregations;

providing resources which help us to integrate a deep passion for justice within our spiritual lives.

Local churches, conferences, national bodies, and church-related groups implement priorities programs. Each conference and local church will be asked to accept Priorities adopted by the General Synod within twelve months following General Synod action. The following national bodies are designated as implementors for the Proposed Priority of Spiritual Renewal:

Coordinating Center for Women
Office of Communication
Office for Church in Society
Office for Church Life and Leadership
Stewardship Council
United Church Board for Homeland Ministries
United Church Board for World Ministries

↘ The Office for Church Life and Leadership is designated as coordinator.

19. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Moderator, Rev. John Krueger, called on Secretary Carol Joyce Brun to make the announcements.

20. RECESS

The Moderator declared the General Synod in recess until 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY EVENING, JUNE 30

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Assistant Moderator, Mr. Guy T. Outlaw.

The Moderator of the Illinois South Conference introduced their new Conference Minister, Rev. Martha Ann Baumer.

2. BIBLICAL REFLECTION

The Moderator called on Ms. Denise Hood to give the Biblical Reflection. Her topic, "Jesus Christ: A Word of Love," using Luke 15:8-32 as scripture reference.

3. CONTINUATION OF REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Moderator called on Rev. Gary D. Bryant, Chair of the Executive Council. He introduced Rev. Barbara Brown Zikmund, who presented the report of the Historical Council.

4. REPORT OF THE HISTORICAL COUNCIL AND ARCHIVAL ACCESSIONS POLICY ACTION

Ms. Zikmund reported on the work of the Historical Council and presented slides showing the work of the Council. (See Appendix 9.) In addition she presented the "Archival Accessions Policies and Practices in the United Church of Christ", which was recommended by the Historical Council and the Executive Council.

5. ADOPTION OF ARCHIVAL ACCESSIONS POLICY

Mr. Bryant moved the Executive Council recommendation on "Archival Accessions Policy and Practice in the UCC." There was discussion, it was

85-GS-33 VOTED: The Fifteenth General Synod adopts the "Archival Accessions Policies and Practices in the UCC" and commends it for use to the archives, local churches, associ-

ations, conferences and national bodies of the United Church of Christ. (See Appendix 10.)

Rev. Avery Post was presented with a framed limited edition of the poster commissioned by the Historical Council.

6. REPORT ON PROPOSAL FOR ACTION—EMPOWERING THE LAITY FOR MINISTRY

The Moderator called on Mr. Daniel Caplan, Chairperson of the Committee, who presented the recommended action on the Proposal for Action Empowering the Laity for Ministry. He indicated the following changes that were made by the committee:

After number one, add a, b, and c before succeeding paragraphs.

and after number two, add letters, a, b, c, d, and e. In section 2,d, restate to read:

d. Assisting laity to design, plan, develop and execute their ministries.

The committee members spoke to the proposal. There was no discussion from the floor. It was

85-GS-34 VOTED: The Fifteenth General Synod adopts the Proposal for Action "Empowering the Laity for Ministry" related to the Pronouncement, Empowering the Laity for Ministry by the Thirteenth General Synod.

PROPOSAL FOR ACTION ON EMPOWERING THE LAITY FOR MINISTRY

SUMMARY

This Proposal for Action, like the Pronouncement upon which it is based, affirms the concept of ministry as the calling for

all people of God (the laos). "Ministry" is defined as service to others in the name of Christ through the use of one's gifts in response to the Holy Spirit. It embraces an understanding of ministry that can find expression and be carried on within, through and beyond the programs and activities of the institutional church. It seeks to draw out the fuller range of implications for the life and mission of the United Church of Christ stemming from the Pronouncement.

THE CALL TO ACTION

WHEREAS, the Thirteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ has adopted the Pronouncement entitled "Empowering the Laity for Ministry" and,

WHEREAS, that Pronouncement includes a "Statement of Christian Conviction" which calls upon the United Church of Christ and all its related institutions to "at once" begin examining many fundamental issues related to ministry,

THEREFORE, the Fifteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ:

1. Calls upon the Office for Church Life and Leadership to commission a major theological study for use by local congregations. The study shall address:
 - a. The biblical and historical foundation for affirming the ministry of the laity and its theological implications,
 - b. The doctrine of the Priesthood of all believers as interpreted by its present day ecclesiastical and mission significance,
 - c. Those forces which enable and block empowering of the ministry of the laity within the life of the Church. This shall include, but not be limited to, problems related to language, traditional doctrine, polity, practice, and structure within the life and work of the United Church of Christ.
2. Calls upon the Office for Church Life and Leadership in consultation with the Division of Christian Education of the Board for Homeland Ministries and the Association of the United Church Educators and other instrumentalities as appropriate to develop resources and consultative services which shall assist local congregations in:
 - a. Educational programs and consciousness-raising events,
 - b. The use of materials to help laity identify their God-given gifts for ministry,
 - c. Helping laity identify and claim specific calls to ministry,
 - d. Assisting laity to design, plan, develop and execute their ministries.
 - e. Providing a means of recognizing, supporting, and then being accountable for the ministries undertaken, and
3. Calls upon local and regional structures of the United Church of Christ to commit themselves to enable the whole people of God to be in ministry and to communicate such needs and resources as they have for doing so to the appropriate national judicatories.
4. Calls upon the Office for Church Life and Leadership and all UCC related Theological Schools to offer opportunities to laity for study and reflection which would help to inform their ministries and to develop their skills and effectiveness.
5. Calls upon the Office for Church Life and Leadership to examine thoroughly current issues of clergy-crisis, burn-out among church leadership, multiple-role expectations and demands, and forms of clergy-lay conflicts in the context of mutual ministry between clergy laity. It shall explore the role of spiritual disciplines and of support groups in relation to sustaining both in ministry.
6. Calls upon the Office for Church Life and Leadership to examine within the UCC, other denominations, and ecumenical movements, successful models of faith renewal and development and lay empowerment, as they relate to the above mentioned Pronouncement, and adapt them for use within the UCC.
7. Calls upon the Office for Church Life and Leadership to give a progress report of its activities in implementing this Proposal for Action to the Sixteenth General Synod.
8. Calls upon the Office of Communication to feature articles and stories related to the empowerment of the laity for ministry.
9. Calls upon the Stewardship Council to emphasize the stewardship of one's gifts for ministry as well as one's financial resources and to put special emphasis on investment of local church resources in the preparation of the laity for ministries in, through and beyond the institutional church setting.
10. Calls upon all local congregations, regional judicatories, and national instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ to affirm, celebrate, and seek ways to enable the ministries of the whole people of God to be at all levels of the church's life and mission.

NOTE: It is understood that the implementation of the Proposal for Action is subject to the availability of funds and a determination of the full range of the financial implications involved.

7. RESOLUTION, "PROMOTING EAST WEST CITIZEN DIALOGUE"

The Moderator called on Rev. Robert Jones, Chairperson of the Committee, who referred to the Resolution, "Promoting East West Dialogue" in Advance Material II, pp. 166-168. He moved adoption of the resolution with the amendments suggested by the committee. They were

TITLE: Change title from: Promoting East West Dialogue to Promoting East West Citizen Dialogue.

1st Therefore . . . , Last line: Change "could" to "can".

2nd Therefore . . . , 2nd line, after urges:

Delete - "instrumentalities and boards of the national church";

Add - the United Church Board for World Ministries, the Office for Church in Society, the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, and the Office of Communication.

3rd Therefore, line 2, after: "call on the"

Insert: Conferences and

Delete: This statement is in support of the "East-West Resolution."