

- d) Establishing and maintaining conference offices, conference centers, institutions and other agencies needful to its growth and welfare;
- e) Sponsoring inservice training for ministers; and
- f) Conducting conferences, retreats, clinics and workshops"

"162 . . . A Conference maintains relations with other Christian fellowships within its boundaries to the end that mutual understanding and cooperation may be advanced."

(By-laws Article 2, Paragraphs 161 and 162).

WHEREAS, small membership conferences have limited financial resources for the development and implementation of program and ministry;

WHEREAS, travel costs in geographically expansive conferences consume an inordinate percentage of conference resources;

WHEREAS, United Church of Christ structures and delivery systems assume conference participation in the distribution and brokering of resources;

WHEREAS, the denomination, in sparsely populated conferences, is often seen as distant to the needs of the local church;

WHEREAS, there are several conferences within the United Church of Christ whose membership may not long be able to offer constitutionally specified services without appropriate financial or programmatic supplementation;

WHEREAS, the issue of a United Church of Christ presence in sparsely populated and underfunded conferences is an issue that should be addressed by the whole Church;

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ is a community of God's Covenanted People in which the fate of the whole and the fate of the parts are one fate;

THEREFORE, the Fifteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ affirms the importance to the whole church of the conversations being conducted under the auspices of the Executive Council of the United Church of Christ, including exploration of:

1. mutual support mechanisms among conferences and national settings of the United Church of Christ;
2. procedures enabling small membership, geographically expansive Conferences to carry out their constitutional tasks.

FURTHER, the General Synod requests the Executive Council to report to the Sixteenth General Synod, including in its report, any recommendation for General Synod action.

8. HISPANIC CONCERNS

Mr. Cox then moved on behalf of Committee #19 that the Resolution "Hispanic Concerns" be adopted. An amendment was moved, seconded, for the last paragraph to read:

"FURTHER, that an intentional decision be made to include Hispanic representatives as well as members of other ethnic groups and their concerns in the planning process of "Renewing the Mission of the United Church of Christ."

After discussion,

85-GS-41 VOTED: The Fifteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "Hispanic Concerns."

HISPANIC CONCERNS

WHEREAS, Hispanics constitute the fastest growing ethnic group in this country according to U.S. Census Bureau figures (14.6 million Hispanics in 1980 from 9.1 million in 1970, representing an approximate increase of 60%); and

WHEREAS, the socio-economic position of Hispanics in the three basic areas of income, employment and education has not improved significantly relative to the rest of the population; and

WHEREAS, in 1975 Synod X adopted a resolution which acknowledged that "The United Church of Christ has too often been ignorant of, or insensitive to, the spiritual and social needs of Hispanic communities in our country" and also declared "Hispanic concerns high priority;" and

WHEREAS, that same resolution called for the implementation of a set of directives which included among others:

—the development of sensitivity throughout the United Church of Christ to the spiritual and social needs of the Hispanic communities;

—the planning and development of new Hispanic congregations and new forms of multi-purpose ministries;

—visible responsible participation by Hispanic persons in decision-making in all national agencies of the United Church of Christ; and

—recruitment of, and support for, Hispanic laity and clergy for theological training and leadership development.

WHEREAS, ten years have passed since General Synod X adopted that resolution;

THEREFORE, the Fifteenth General Synod asks the Executive Council of the United Church of Christ, with representatives of the instrumentalities, Council for Hispanic Ministries and

COREM, to evaluate what has been accomplished and bring recommendations for further improvement in the response of our denomination to this significant segment of our population at General Synod XVI; and

FURTHER, the Fifteenth General Synod calls for an intentional decision to be made to include Hispanic representatives as well as members of other ethnic groups and their concerns in the planning process of "Renewing the Mission of the United Church of Christ."

9. LOCATION OF NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Rev. Theodore Trost of Minnesota spoke to the report from Committee #11. Mr. Trost moved on behalf of the committee, the adoption of the Recommendation on "National Headquarters". The report was presented. After discussion,

85-GS-42 VOTED: The Fifteenth General Synod (1) Receives the report of the Executive Council on the Location of National Headquarters (See Appendix 12.); (2) Authorizes the Executive Council to explore alternative sites as outlined in the report and to present recommendations to the Sixteenth General Synod; and (3) Recommends that the Executive Council pay particular attention to the following special concerns:

- A. Accessibility for handicapped persons.
- B. The symbolic, geographic, and ecumenical significance of the location.
- C. Dialogue with the whole United Church of Christ.