

MONDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 1

Criteria for Participation in Health Insurance Premium Supplementation

1. The Retiree shall have been a participant in a UCC denominational health insurance program at least the ten (10) years preceding retirement, death or disability and be currently participating at the time the health insurance supplementation is being paid.
2. Clergy will have ministerial standing at the time of retirement.
3. Only persons whose total "pension income" for the previous year is less than 75% of the average salary of ministers in pastorates as calculated for the previous year by the Pension Boards in Annual Salary Study will have their premium supplemented. Standards for determining income amounts and assets owned will be the same as used in the supplementation of small annuities. In general "Pension Income" includes total Social Security income benefits plus any other pension or annuity income (pensions from UCC; other annuity income, whether or not tax sheltered; pensions from other denominations; or military service, for example). Also included are earned income of either a member under age 65 or a spouse under age 65. Ministerial Assistance or Supplementation is not included as pension income.
4. Persons whose pension income is currently being supplemented by the present program will receive 100% premium supplementation provided the amount available from the source of funding is sufficient to meet that cost.
5. The remainder of eligible persons will have their premiums supplemented by whatever amount is available from the source of funding for a particular year, after providing 100% supplementation to persons whose pension income is currently being supplemented.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROGRAM

1. Supplementation is for Health Insurance premium only. Dental insurance coverage, if the person is participating in the Dental Plan, will be at the participant's cost.
2. Supplementation of Health Insurance premium payments for all persons participating will be based on the premium rate that is being charged to retired persons age 65 or over.

Funding for this Proposal

The General Synod requests the Pension Boards to utilize the Christmas Fund Offering taken during the Christmas season for the Veterans of the Cross as the source of funds for this program. The Pension Boards are requested to establish priorities for the use of the money raised from this offering as follows:

1. Cost of the offering and administration of the Christmas Fund.
2. Christmas and Emergency grants.
3. Supplementation of Small Annuities. The amounts anticipated in the 1985 through 1987 budgets submitted by the Pension Boards to the Executive Council for supplementation of small annuities, but not including the portion budgeted for supplementation of health insurance premiums, to the extent funds are available after provisions of items 1' and 2. For years after 1987, the amount of

funds for supplementation of small annuities is requested to be the amount for the preceding year increased by the inflation rate for that previous year.

4. Health Insurance Premium Supplementation. Any remaining balance for the funds raised in the Christmas Fund Offering, after providing for items 1,2, and 3, to the extent necessary to meet the funding requirements for those eligible for such supplementation.

The General Synod calls upon the conferences to affirm the following:

1. The size of the offering must increase significantly.
2. Conferences shall covenant not to use money from this offering for their own uses, either to meet costs of health insurance supplementation that they determine to pay beyond the amount provided by this proposal or for any other purpose. To do so will make less money available for the majority of those who will receive supplementation.

There will continue to be variances between conferences in supplementation, since some conferences may choose to add to the amount provided by this proposal to bring the total supplementation amount up to or close to their current program of supplementing insurance premium costs.

3. REPORT OF THE CONSULTATION ON CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

The Moderator called on Ms. Patricia Eggleston, Chairperson of Committee #12, to present the recommended actions of that committee.

Ms. Eggleston referred to Section II, page 32 and page 68-75, Appendix 7. She moved that the Fifteenth General Synod receive the report and adopt the recommendations of the Consultation on Church Development with a number of changes.

A substitution motion to the recommendations of the Consultation on Church Development was made.

"The Fifteenth General Synod recommends that the proposed "special" ten year program of church development as a "major commitment" be postponed so that church development can be introduced into the priority process for The Sixteenth General Synod in order that members of the United Church of Christ may study and discuss the theological, financial and other implications of a major church development program."

The substitute motion was defeated.

Ms. Celsa Ayala-Coloma, (MASS) moved the following amendment:

Under 3 (b), add the following as Item 6:

Special criteria be developed for church development in low income communities.

After discussion on the amendment, it was voted to make the amendment a part of the resolution.

Rev. Norman Kirsch moved the following amendment:

paragraph 1, second line—1995 be changed to 1989; paragraph 1, third line—150 be changed to 60

The amendment was defeated. The Synod voted to close debate.

MONDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 1

GS-85-48 VOTED: The Fifteenth General Synod receives the Report of the Consultation on Church Development (see Appendix 13.) and takes the following action in relationship thereto:

REPORT OF THE CONSULTATION ON CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

1. Adopts a special program of church development as a major commitment for the period 1986-1995, the goal of which shall be to support 15 new or renewed churches annually for an approximate total of 150 churches aided during the period.
2. Requests the Executive Council to consider appropriate support for this program from the UCC annual budgets and other church wide resources.
3. Requests the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries to accept responsibility for managing this program, to commit significant resources for leadership subsidy, and to develop appropriate resources for the capital aspects of the program. As a part of its management of this special program on Church Development, the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries shall:
 - a) intentionally initiate and implement a church wide strategy for United Church of Christ development which includes
 - 1) the selection of target areas having the greatest potential for growth
 - 2) the development of a substantial pool of potential leadership for such churches
 - 3) the commitment of one-third of the new starts to racial/ethnic minority communities
 - 4) a long term program of land/site acquisition and management
 - 5) adequate long term provision for facilities construction funding
 - 6) the sharing of responsibilities and resources between the conferences and the national instrumentalities
 - b) intentionally model new possibilities in church development in addition to the current styles in the New Initiatives in Church Development program of the preceding six years. These models would include
 - 1) multiple starts in rapidly growing metropolitan areas
 - 2) pairing strong established churches with new starts as a third partner to the conference and the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries
 - 3) a start big and get bigger strategy in selected high potential settings
 - 4) a cluster of contiguous new churches starting a new church together
 - 5) starting new churches in changing communities of large cities rather than redeveloping old ones
 - 6) special criteria be developed for church development in low income communities.

Financial implications are illustrated in the report of the Consultation on Church Development. Implementation is subject to the availability of funds.

4. RESOLUTION TO CONTINUE NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Patricia Eggleston referred to Section II, page 151 and moved to adopt the recommendation of the Committee that

The Fifteenth General Synod take no action on a Resolution to Continue New Church Development.

Following discussion,

85-GS-49 VOTED: The Fifteenth General Synod takes no action on the Resolution "Continue New Church Development" as proposed by the North Dakota, Central Atlantic, Florida, Illinois, and South Central Conferences, as the substance of this resolution and the proposed resolves are included in the recommended action on the Report of the Consultation on Church Development.

5. PRONOUNCEMENT ON AFFIRMING THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AS A JUST PEACE CHURCH

The Moderator introduced Rev. Virginia Derr, Chairperson of Committee #3, to present the pronouncement, Affirming the United Church of Christ as A Just Peace Church.

Rev. Derr referred to the proposed pronouncement, Section 1-4. Ms. Derr moved that the Fifteenth General Synod adopt the pronouncement entitled, "Affirming the United Church of Christ As A Just Peace Church" with the following changes:

Section IV, A, paragraph 4—add new paragraph.

Nonviolence is a Christian response to conflict shown to us by Jesus.

We have barely begun to explore this little known process of reconciliation.

Section IV, D, 5, add— . . . and developing strategies of converting military industries to Just Peace industries.

After discussion, a friendly amendment was made by Rev. Raymond Woodruff, Section IV, A of the pronouncement, beginning "The State," the word "is" following "The State", and also the word "is" following "consent and" should be changed to "should be."

Rev. Thomas B. Walter then moved an amendment to Section IV, D, add 7, "We affirm a free and open press within each nation, without hindrance from government." The amendment was adopted.

Rev. David Seymour moved an amendment as follows:
Section IV, E, 1c, add—

in accord with guidelines for nation outlined under IV, E, 9.

The amendment was defeated. The General Synod voted to close debate.

85-GS-50 VOTED: The Fifteenth General Synod adopts the pronouncement "Affirming the United Church of Christ as a Just Peace Church."

PRONOUNCEMENT ON AFFIRMING THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AS A JUST PEACE CHURCH

SUMMARY

Affirms the UCC to be a Just Peace Church and defines Just Peace as the interrelation of friendship, justice and common security from violence. Places the UCC General Synod in opposition to the institution of war.

BACKGROUND

The Thirteenth General Synod called upon the UCC to become a Peace Church and the Fourteenth General Synod