

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