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2. We affirm the right and obligation of governments to use civil authority to prevent lawlessness and protect human rights. Such force must not be excessive and must always be in the context of the primary responsibility of the state in creating social justice and promoting human welfare. Any use of force must be based in the participatory consent of the people.

3. We affirm that war must be eliminated as an instrument of national policy and the global economy must be more just. To meet these goals, international institutions must be strengthened.

4. We affirm our support for the United Nations, which should be strengthened developing the following:

- a. more authority in disputes among countries;
- b. peacekeeping forces, including a permanent force of at least 5000, able to police border disputes and intervene when called to do so by the U.N.;
- c. peacemaking teams, trained in mediation, conflict intervention, and conflict resolution;
- d. support for international peace academies;
- e. a global satellite surveillance system to provide military intelligence to the common community;
- f. international agreements to limit military establishments and the international arms trade;
- g. an international ban on the development, testing, use, and possession of nuclear and biochemical weapons of mass destruction;
- h. an international ban on all weapons in space and all national development of space-based defense systems and Strategic Defense Initiatives.

5. We affirm our support for the International Court of Justice and for the strengthening of international law, including:

- a. the Law of the Sea Treaty;
- b. universal ratification of the International Covenants and Conventions which seek to implement the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- c. recognition of the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice and removal of restrictions, such as the Connally Amendment, which impair the Court's effective functioning.

6. We reject any use or threat to use weapons and forces of mass destruction and any doctrine of deterrence based primarily on using such weapons. We also reject unilateral full-scale disarmament as a currently accepted path out of the present international dilemma. We affirm the development of new policies of common security, using a combination of negotiated agreements, new international institutions and institutional power, non-violent strategies, unilateral initiatives to lessen tensions, and new policies which will make the global economy more just.

7. We affirm the mutual and verifiable freeze on the testing, production, and deployment of nuclear weapons as the most important step in breaking the escalating dynamics of the arms race, and call upon the U.S. and the U.S.S.R., and other nations to take unilat-

eral initiatives toward implementing such a freeze, contingent upon the other side responding, until such time as a comprehensive freeze can be negotiated.

8. We declare our opposition to all weapons of mass destruction. All nations should:

- a. declare that they will never use such weapons;
- b. cease immediately the testing, production and deployment of nuclear weapons;
- c. begin dismantling these arsenals;
- d. while the process of dismantling is going on, negotiate comprehensive treaties banning all such future weapons by any nation.

9. We declare our opposition to war, violence, and terrorism. All nations should:

- a. declare that they will never attack another nation;
- b. make unilateral initiatives toward dismantling their military arsenals, calling upon other nations to reciprocate;
- c. develop mechanisms for international law, international peacekeeping, and international conflict resolution.

6. ADDRESS BY REV. ALLAN BOESAK

President Avery Post introduced Rev. Allan Boesak, President of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, who addressed the General Synod. (See Appendix 14.)

President Post then called on Rev. Charles Cobb to lead General Synod in prayer.

7. PROPOSAL FOR ACTION ON ORGANIZING THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AS A JUST PEACE CHURCH

The Assistant Moderator, Ms. Janeece L. Dent called on Rev. Virginia Derr who moved the Proposal for Action, "Organizing the United Church of Christ as a Just Peace Church" with additions as follows:

Section IV, 1, add after first paragraph:

"We commend to all local churches the use of the World Peace Prayer, using the example of the Benedictine Sisters who pray this specific prayer each day at 12 noon:

Lead me/us from death to life,
from falsehood to truth.
Lead me/us from despair to hope,
from fear to trust.
Lead me/us from hate to love,
from war to peace.
Let peace fill our heart, our
world, our universe.

Section IV, 4, paragraph 2, after first sentence add following sentence:

"We call upon local churches to be understanding and even supportive of persons who out of individual conscience take the responsibility for such non-violent extraordinary witness."

After discussion, Rev. Ross McGuire moved an amendment as follows:

Reword IV, 4, paragraph 2 to read:

"While respecting the claims of responsible governments on

the loyalty and good will of their people, because the times are now so critical, we call our churches to recognize and support the right of persons to witness in extraordinary as well as ordinary ways for a just peace.

“Such a witness may include acts of non-violent challenge to laws and policies which promote war and injustice in the world and a willingness to go to jail to call attention to specific outrages.”

Following discussion, the motion was defeated.

Mr. Jeffrey Schragg of the Business Committee moved to divide the question, separating Section VI, “Call For Increased Funding,” All Church Offerings, from the proposal for action so that it could be considered during the report of Committee #13. The motion was adopted.

After further discussion, it was,

85-GS-51 VOTED: The Fifteenth General Synod adopts the Proposal for Action “Organizing the United Church of Christ As A Just Peace Church.”

PROPOSAL FOR ACTION ON ORGANIZING THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AS A JUST PEACE CHURCH

SUMMARY

Calls upon churches to organize themselves so as to be effective instruments of God’s Just Peace. Calls for organizing the UCC regionally and nationally for more effective Just Peace witness. Calls for a two-year Just Peace offering, and effective long-range funding.

BACKGROUND

This Proposal for Action builds on the proposed Pronouncement, also submitted to the Fifteenth General Synod, “Affirming the United Church of Christ as a Just Peace Church.” Like the Pronouncement, the Proposal for Action has been developed in response to the request of the Fourteenth General Synod to recommend theology, policy, and structure for enabling the UCC to be a peacemaking church.

DIRECTIONAL STATEMENT

The Fifteenth General Synod calls upon all in the United Church of Christ to recognize that the creating of a Just Peace is central to their identity as Christians and to their Baptism into the Christian community.

A. Call To Local Churches

The Fifteenth General Synod calls on local churches to organize their common life so as to make a difference in the achieving of a Just Peace and the ending of the institution of war.

The Fifteenth General Synod calls for the development of four key components within local churches: spiritual development, Just Peace education, political advocacy and community witness.

1. We call all local churches to the inward journey of spiritual nurture: prayer for a Just Peace, study of the Scriptures, theological reflection upon the work of the Holy Spirit, celebration and worship which center the life of the community in the power and reality of the God who creates a Just Peace. We call for the development of Christian community which nurtures and supports members in the search for a Just Peace. We commend to all local churches the use of the World Peace Prayer, using the example of the Benedictine Sis-

ters who pray this specific prayer each day at 12 noon:

Lead me/us from death to life,
from falsehood to truth.
Lead me/us from despair to hope,
from fear to trust.
Lead me/us from hate to love,
from war to peace.
Let peace fill our hearts, our
world, our universe.

2. We call all local churches to the inward journey of education. Knowing that there are no easy answers to the creating of a Just Peace, we call for churches to establish the climate where all points of view can be respected, all honest feelings and opinions shared in the search for new answers and directions. We call for a steady program of Just Peace education, a steady flow of information on Just Peace issues into the life of the congregation.
3. We call all local churches to the outward journey of political witness, enabling all members to join the search for the politics of a Just Peace. Just Peace is both a religious concept and a political concept, and participation in the political arena is essential. We call for each church to appoint a contact person for the UCC Peace Advocacy and Hunger/Economic Justice Networks to follow closely those political issues most critical to the development of a Just Peace and to alert members of the local church when it is most appropriate to write or contact their Senators and Representatives.
4. We call all local churches to the outward journey of community witness. We call for local churches to make their convictions known in their communities through public forums, media, and presence in the public arena. We call for local churches to help shape public opinion and the climate in which the issues of a Just Peace are shaped. We call for churches to explore with military industries the opportunities for conversion into Just Peace industries. We call for evangelistic outreach, inviting others to join in the search for a Just Peace.

Because the times are so critical, we call for extraordinary witness as well as ordinary political involvement to break the power of the structural evils which prevent a Just Peace. We call upon local churches to be understanding and even supportive of persons who out of individual conscience take the responsibility for such non-violent extraordinary witness. Examples of such witness might include: becoming a conscientious objector to war; refusing acceptance of employment with any project related to nuclear and biochemical weapons and warfare; refusing any and all assignments to use weapons of mass destruction as a member of the military; withholding tax money in protest of the excessively militaristic policies of our government; and engaging in acts of non-violent civil disobedience, willingly going to jail to call attention to specific outrages.

B. Call To Conferences and National Bodies

The Fifteenth General Synod calls upon Conferences and national bodies of the UCC to organize their common life so as to make a difference in the achieving of a Just Peace and the ending of the institution of war.

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The Fifteenth General Synod calls for the development of four key components in developing the United Church of Christ so that it can make a real difference over the next years: regional centers, Washington advocacy, international presence, and national programs.

1. We call upon Conferences to develop regional centers able to link local churches into effective regional and national strategies. A variety of options are possible at the Association and Conference levels: The development of regional UCC peace centers that resource local groups through educational, organizational, advocacy, and funding efforts;

The development of ecumenical regional Just Peace centers, in partnership with other denominations;

The funding of part-time, contract, or full-time Just Peace staff at the Association or Conference;

The funding of ecumenical peace staff in states or metropolitan areas.

2. We call for the strengthening of our advocacy work in Washington, D.C., with more funding to develop the capacity of the UCC to make its witness known in the national political arena, to expand its capacity for policy analysis, to increase its presence on Capitol Hill in shaping legislation, to develop stronger communication links with churches around the country to share political developments and urge action, and to build coalitions.
3. We call upon the United Church of Christ Board for World Ministries to explore and develop new models of peace and justice ministries globally to address particular situations of injustice, oppression and real or potential violence, and to develop communication links between Christians in these critical situations and Christians in the U.S., developing global partnership and global awareness in the search for a Just Peace.
4. We call upon all national bodies to continue to develop effective programs of advocacy, empowerment, and education. We call for more resources to develop national strategies of advocacy and action to increase the witness of the UCC for a Just Peace. We call for the Office for Church in Society to facilitate the coordination of this work.

IMPLEMENTATION

Churches, conferences, and national bodies, including the Office for Church in Society, the Executive Council, the United Church Board for World Ministries, and the Stewardship Council, have been requested in this Call to Action to respond to various directions. These bodies are responsible for developing the strategies and programs to fulfill the goals outlined here.

Note: Implementation of this Proposal for Action is subject to the availability of funds.

8. PENTECOST PEACE OFFERING BECOMING A SPECIAL APPEAL

Mr. Lorin Cope presented the recommendation on the Pentecost Peace Offering to become a Special Appeal. Mr. Cope moved that the Fifteenth General Synod adopt the Pentecost Peace Offering to become a Special Appeal and referred to Section II, page 27.

Following discussion, Rev. Linda Mines Elliott, Special Appeals Chairperson, moved an amendment as follows:

Section II, Page 27, before the last sentence which begins "The Stewardship Council . . .", insert the following sentence:

"The Office for Church in Society shall administer the net proceeds of the offering and report on its use to the Executive Council."

After discussion, the amendment passed.

Discussion on the main motion continued, with Rev. George (Bill) Webber moving a substitute motion, that the "Call for Increased Funding" that was previously a part of A Proposal for Action—Organizing the United Church of Christ As A Just Peace Church, replace the Pentecost Peace Offering motion.

After discussion it was

85-GS-52 VOTED: The Fifteenth General Synod substitutes the motion on the Pentecost Peace Offering Becoming A Special Appeal, for the following:

The General Synod approves an All-Church Just Peace Offering to be received on Pentecost of 1986 and 1987. One-quarter of the proceeds from this offering may be retained to support Just Peace efforts of the local churches, one-quarter to be held for Just Peace efforts of the Conferences, and one-half will be transmitted to the Director of Finance and Treasurer of the United Church of Christ for use by the Office for Church in Society and other national bodies to develop and nurture Just Peace advocacy. The Stewardship Council is requested to promote the offering and the Office for Church in Society is requested to administer the net receipts of the offering and report on its use to the Executive Council. The continuation of the offering beyond 1987 will be determined by a study by the Executive Council on how best to fund the mission of the church through all-church and special offerings, and how to increase financial support for the advocacy of Just Peace regionally, in Washington, nationally, and internationally so that the UCC can make a much greater difference in the seeking of a Just Peace and the ending of the institution of war.

Debate then continued on the substitute motion.

A motion to postpone until the end of the Committee 13 report was made by Rev. Richard Vaught. This motion was sustained by the General Synod and the report of Mr. Lorin Cope in behalf of Committee # 13 continued.

9. ALL CHURCH AND SPECIAL OFFERINGS

The Moderator called on Mr. Lorin Cope who moved that General Synod Fifteen adopt the recommendations of the Executive Council regarding the Christmas Fund Offering "Veterans of the Cross" becoming an All Church Offering, and the Family Thank Offering becoming an All Church Offering.

10. SPEAK OUT

The Moderator called for a vote as to whether the delegates wished to hear speak out at this time. It was voted not to hold speak out.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Moderator called on Secretary Carol Joyce Brun for the announcements.

12. RECESS

The Moderator declared the meeting in recess at 5:00 p.m.