

MONDAY EVENING, JULY 1

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Fifteenth General Synod was called to order by the Assistant Moderator, Ms. Janeece L. Dent, at 7:00 p.m.

2. SPEAK OUT

Secretary Carol Joyce Brun was called on by the Moderator to explain the rules and to conduct the Speak Out. Some of the subjects presented during Speak Out were concerns for the local churches; an "each one teach one" program to help illiteracy among Blacks and Hispanics; the lifting up of the young adult priority and their not being lumped with youth since they have their own unique problems; an appeal by youth and young adults to let them be program planners; a regional women's meeting to be held in Des Moines in 1986; and greetings from the United Church of Christ Friends for Life, who expressed thanks for allowing them to come and speak.

3. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

The Moderator called on Mrs. Winifred Cash Rhodes, Chairperson of the Agenda Committee, who had the following two recommendations, since the meeting was 1 1/2 hours behind schedule:

- (1) that the evening session be extended to 10:00 p.m. with all activities held thereafter. This was adopted;
- (2) that the Order of the Day for Tuesday, July 2 be changed to allow the first thing on the agenda to be several national instrumentality presentations. This was voted by the delegates. A motion to place item 4 of Committee #1, relating to Further Implementation of the Youth and Young Adult Ministries Priority, on the agenda at 8:30 p.m. that evening as an Order of the Day, was seconded and voted.

4. BIBLICAL REFLECTIONS BY YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

The Moderator announced that in light of the Youth and Young Adult priority, voted at General Synod Fourteen, youth were to lead in Biblical Reflections. Ms. Dent welcomed Mr. Jeff Hodgson of Schofield, Wisconsin and Ms. Leslie Taylor of Plymouth United Church of Christ in Detroit, Michigan, to lead in reflection on "Jesus Christ: A Word of Courage."

5. CONTINUATION OF COMMITTEE 13 REPORT

The Moderator announced that the adoption of the Christmas Fund and Family Thank Offering, found in Section VI Advance Materials, section II, page 26, would be dealt with as two separate items. Ms. Dent announced that Rev. David Hirano and Rev. Yvonne Delk would make presentations to inform the actions. Mr. Hirano, of the Planning and Correlation Committee of the Executive Council, gave a history and definitions of Special Appeals and All-Church Offerings and a Special Appeal Offering. A visual presentation of the schedule for offerings was presented.

Rev. David Butler (MASS), asked to appeal the decision of the chair regarding the order of the vote for item 13. Following a standing vote, the chair decided to hear the whole report before discussion of the Peace Offering.

Rev. Yvonne Delk continued with the report of Committee #13, explaining that the Pentecost Peace Offering would only be for this biennium and then would be re-evaluated.

6. PENTECOST ALL-CHURCH JUST PEACE OFFERING

The substitute motion on the Pentecost Just Peace Offering was again on the floor for discussion and action. Following discussion pro and con, debate was closed and it was,

85-GS-53 VOTED: The Fifteenth 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 offerings and special appeals, and how to increase financial support of 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.

7. PRONOUNCEMENT ON NATIONAL TOXIC INJUSTICE CRISIS

The Moderator called on Rev. Robert Tucker, Chairperson of Committee #4, who presented and moved the Committee recommendation on the National Toxic Injustice Proposed Pronouncement. Following discussion, it was,

85-GS-54 VOTED: The Fifteenth General Synod adopts the Pronouncement "National Toxic Injustice."

PRONOUNCEMENT ON NATIONAL TOXIC INJUSTICE

SUMMARY

During the last two years, a national crisis has emerged where tens of thousands of communities throughout the United States now suffer the horrors of life-threatening toxic injustice. Toxic injustice is defined as the deliberate unsafe production and transportation of lethal and toxic substances; or the conscious dumping of these substances into powerless, poor and minority communities; or the wanton contamination of water, air and other natural resources by the petro-chemical and other industries. This pronouncement is a call to the United Church of Christ to address programmatically the theological, moral, social and racial justice issues emerging out of this crisis and to develop and promote remedies to resolve this crisis. The Word of God through Jesus Christ, the Word of life, commands the Church to do justice and to act to protect God's earth and all of God's children from the evil of toxic injustice.

BACKGROUND

The escalating problem of unsafe industrial production of lethal and toxic substances and the improper and unjust disposal of these substances is a "life and death" issue. This national problem has now reached crisis proportions. Pres-