

the neighbor's need, and the neighbor is every man who is affected by what one does or leaves undone. Social justice, like love, seeks the welfare of all persons in the community." The challenge to the improper production, therefore, as well as the disposal of toxic and hazardous substances, falls well within the domain of Christian morality and theology.

THE STATEMENT OF CHRISTIAN CONVICTION

The Fifteenth General Synod affirms the following:

1. The Word of God through Jesus Christ is the active Word of life and justice. The gospel of Jesus Christ is good news to the poor and to the victims of all forms of injustice.
2. As Christians, we understand the theological and moral imperative to take action to challenge toxic injustice.
3. We are called into the Church to be justice-seeking servants and we are called to take action to protect God's earth and all of God's people from the evil of toxic injustice.
4. We are moved by the Holy Spirit to witness and to confront the national toxic injustice crisis and to provide leadership on this issue denominationally, ecumenically, and in victimized communities.

8. PROPOSAL FOR ACTION ON NATIONAL TOXIC INJUSTICE CRISIS

Mr. Tucker, Chairperson of Committee #4, then moved the Proposal for Action on the National Toxic Injustice Crisis with an amendment related to toxic and atomic waste on Indian reservations from the Committee. The "National Toxic Injustice Crisis" Proposal for Action was amended as follows:

"FURTHER, the Fifteenth General Synod appeals to the Congress of the United States, the President, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs to impose an outright ban on the dumping of toxic and atomic waste on any Indian Reservation or other Indian land. Not only is this an injustice to Indian people who have had no part in the consumerism that has produced such waste, but it is a violation of Indian Treaties inasmuch as it is taking additional land from Indian people that was guaranteed them for all time."

Following an amendment to delete "calls on the Executive Council for action", it was,

85-GS-55 VOTED: The Fifteenth General Synod adopts the Proposal for Action, "National Toxic Injustice Crisis."

PROPOSAL FOR ACTION ON NATIONAL TOXIC INJUSTICE CRISIS

WHEREAS, the Fifteenth General Synod has adopted the pronouncement on National Toxic Injustice Crisis, and whereas this pronouncement calls the church to address programmatically the theological, moral, social and racial justice issues emerging out of this crisis and to develop and promote remedies to resolve the crisis; therefore the Fifteenth General Synod:

Calls upon the United Church of Christ to develop and implement a programmatic challenge to the national toxic injustice crisis in the United States; and to involve National bodies, Instrumentalities, Conferences, Associations and local churches in efforts to resolve the crisis.

Calls upon the Commission for Racial Justice to continue

to be responsible for planning and coordinating programs and projects on this issue, and to develop proposals for programmatic action by specific National bodies including but not limited to the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, United Church Board for World Ministries, Office for Church in Society and the Stewardship Council.

Calls upon the United Church of Christ to call upon other denominations and the National Council of Churches to join together in implementing an effective national strategy to stop the victimization of people and the destruction of the environment because of unjust toxic production and pollution.

Calls upon the President of the United Church of Christ to call upon the President and the Congress of the United States to take appropriate corrective action to resolve this national crisis.

Calls upon the United Church of Christ to demand that the Environmental Protection Agency take immediate steps to enforce existing environmental laws and work more vigorously to protect the environment from toxic injustice.

Calls upon the United Church of Christ at the Conference, Association and local church levels to demand state and local governments to develop adequate environmental laws and a comprehensive plan to enforce those laws.

Calls upon the United Church of Christ to call upon corporate America to become more responsible stewards of the environment and to place a priority on eliminating the unnecessary production of toxic and hazardous substances.

Calls upon the United Church of Christ and other denominations, federal and state agencies, local governments, academic and philanthropic institutions, and environmental and public interest groups to study the social, racial and justice implications of this crisis.

Calls upon each individual to become informed on this issue and to live in such a way that the need for the production and disposal of toxic substances is minimized.

Requests the Commission for Racial Justice to make a progress report to the Sixteenth General Synod.

Further, the Fifteenth General Synod appeals to the Congress of the United States, the President, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs to impose an outright ban on the dumping of toxic and atomic waste on any Indian Reservation or other Indian land. Not only is this an injustice to Indian people who have had no part in the consumerism that has produced such waste, but also it is a violation of Indian Treaties inasmuch as it is taking additional land from Indian people that was guaranteed to them for all time.

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

9. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES PRIORITY

At 8:30 p.m., the Moderator, Rev. John Krueger, assumed the position as Moderator, and the Assistant Moderator, Ms. Janece L. Dent, was given a standing ovation for her role as Assistant Moderator. Mr. Krueger called on Rev. Jean Curtis (MASS), Chairperson of Committee #1, who spoke to the resolution, "Further Implementation of the Youth and Young Adult Ministries Priority" submitted by Youth and