

14. RESOLUTION "RON FUJIOSHI AND THE JAPANESE ALIEN FINGERPRINTING LAW"

Rev. Peggy McClanahan was called on by the Moderator to present recommended actions from Committee #18, but she yielded time to Committee #26 so that Rev. John Nakajima, General Secretary of the United Church of Christ in Japan, could speak to the resolution on, "Ron Fujioshi and the Japanese Alien Fingerprinting Law." Rev. Jim Burnett (HI) moved an amendment as follows:

Add "10. WHEREAS, even before Ron Fujioshi's trial and the issue he has raised has been brought to resolution, the Ministry of Justice of Japan has informed Ron that it will refuse him a permit to reenter Japan should he leave Japan for any reason at any time, and

11. WHEREAS, this will have the effect of enabling the Ministry of Justice to avoid having to deal with Ron and the issue he has raised;"

and add a second "THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Fifteenth General Synod requests the Ministry of Justice that Ron Fujioshi's request for a re-entry permit be granted in order that he may be allowed to visit his parents."

The amendment was adopted.

Willis Clare Nelson moved the following amendment:

to add a new third THEREFORE clause: "That the Fifteenth General Synod also expresses its support for the actions of the Korean Christian Church in Japan and the United Church of Christ in Japan in their struggle to change the Alien Registration Law of Japan."

The amendment was adopted, and it was

85-GS-58 VOTED: The Fifteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "Ron Fujioshi and the Japanese Alien Fingerprinting Law."

RON FUJIOSHI AND THE JAPANESE ALIEN FINGERPRINTING LAW

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has throughout its history been a firm advocate of human rights, and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has maintained a deep commitment to civil rights and the support of oppressed peoples throughout the world, and

WHEREAS, Ron Fujioshi, a third-generation American of Japanese ancestry and a United Church of Christ missionary is living and working in Osaka, Japan among the resident Koreans identifying with their plight and oppression, and

WHEREAS, he has chosen to highlight that struggle through the particular issue of alien fingerprinting, and

WHEREAS, his current trial, with several recent hearings completed, now enters its final, most critical, stage; and

WHEREAS, if the outcome is unfavorable to him, he would be subject to immediate deportation, and

WHEREAS, this fingerprinting protest has served to focus attention on the plight of Koreans in Japan and the discrimination against them in education, housing, employment and social welfare, and

WHEREAS, the offensiveness of this discrimination is highlighted by the fact that many older Koreans were brought to Japan as forced labor and younger Koreans are second and third generation in Japan and have known no other homeland, and

WHEREAS, there is evidence now of a new consciousness among many Japanese regarding the discrimination and denials of human rights involved in this situation, and;

WHEREAS, even before Ron Fujioshi's trial and the issue he has raised has been brought to resolution, the Ministry of Justice of Japan has informed Ron that it will refuse him a permit to re-enter Japan should he leave Japan for any reason at any time, and

WHEREAS, this will have the effect of enabling the Ministry of Justice to avoid having to deal with Ron and the issue he has raised.

THEREFORE, the Fifteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ expresses its sympathy with the Japan-born Korean minority still considered alien in Japan and, while acknowledging our nation's shortcomings in human rights, appeals to the Japanese government for revision of the Alien Registration Law and for increasing assurance of those basic human rights presently denied the Korean minority; and

THEREFORE, the Fifteenth General Synod expresses its spiritual support for United Church of Christ missionary, Ron Fujioshi, and the courage he continues to show in his particular protest against this discrimination by refusing to be fingerprinted as an alien; and

THEREFORE, the Fifteenth General Synod requests the Ministry of Justice that Ron Fujioshi's request for a re-entry permit be granted in order that he may be allowed to visit his parents; and

THEREFORE, the Fifteenth General Synod also expresses its support for the actions of the Korean Christian Church in Japan and the United Church of Christ in Japan in their struggle to change the Alien Registration Law of Japan.

The Fifteenth General Synod communicates this resolution to:

Prime Minister Yashurio Nakasone 2-3-1-, Nagatacho, Chiyoda-Ku Tokyo 100, Japan

Minister of Justice Hitoshi Simazake 1-1-1, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-Ku Tokyo 100, Japan

F.C.C.J. Fingerprinting Action Team c/o Korean Christian Center 2-6-10, Nakagawa Nishi Ikuno-Ku, Osaka 544, Japan

The Honorable George Schultz Secretary of State Washington, D.C.

The Korean Christian Church in Japan

The United Church of Christ in Japan

FURTHER, the Fifteenth General Synod appeals to United Church of Christ Conferences, associations, local churches and individuals concerned with human rights to express the above sentiments in communication to Ron Fujioshi and to both the Japanese and United States governments.

No financial implications.