

6. SUNDAY OFFERING FOR AFRICAN FAMINE RELIEF

The Moderator called on President Post, who announced that Sunday's offering for African Famine Relief totalled \$14,500, the largest General Synod offering ever received.

Rev. Leila Anderson was recognized by President Post as having attended every General Synod.

7. FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION OF YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

The Moderator called on Mr. Richard Barber (CONN) who moved to reconsider the vote on further implementation of Youth and Young Adult Ministries Priority. The motion was withdrawn.

8. MOTION TO LIMIT DEBATE

Rev. Helen (Penny) Greer (OHIO) moved to limit debate on the reports of each committee to 25 minutes each and that any business not completed within that time frame be referred to the Executive Council. After discussion, the motion was defeated.

9. UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST RESPONSE TO "BAPTISM, EUCHARIST AND MINISTRY"

Rev. John Thomas, Chairperson of the committee, explained the work of the committee and referred us to Advance Materials II, page 21 and pages 47-53, and the booklet, "Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry". He moved that the Fifteenth General Synod receive the report on the Resolution on, "A United Church of Christ Response to Baptism, Eucharist & Ministry" with the following changes:

page 49, paragraph 5: amends "(par. 15)" to "(p. 16)"

page 53: amends "a clearer statement of Holy Communion as a meal of the Reign of God, by which we are nourished for ethical obedience as servants of peace with justice." to read "a clearer statement of Holy Communion as a meal of the Reign of God, by which we are nourished for ethical obedience as servants of Jesus Christ, who is the source of peace with justice."

There was discussion on the report. Rev. Ken Bickel (PNE) moved that floor speeches be limited to one minute. The motion was defeated.

After discussion, it was

85-GS-59 VOTED: The Fifteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ:

Rejoices in the publication of Baptism, Eucharist, and Ministry and expresses its gratitude to the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches for the extraordinary theological work represented in the documents; Offers "A United Church of Christ Response to Baptism, Eucharist, and Ministry" (see Appendix 15.) as a contribution toward the continuing work of the Commission on Faith and Order as it completes the research project "Toward the Common Expression of the Apostolic Faith Today," and as it prepares for a World Conference on Faith and Order;

Covenants with the Faith and Order Commission to continue the study of Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry, in ecumenical partnership with other churches, and receives it into our life as a church for the guidance we can take from the text for our worship, educational, ethical, and spiritual witness;

Recommits itself, in response to Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry to be "a united and uniting church" that intends to share

responsibility in the quest of the churches for the faithful manifestation of the unity of Christ's one church; and

Directs the Executive Council to develop materials and a study process for local churches on Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry and "A United Church of Christ Response to Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry" within the next biennium.

Financial Implications: \$5,000 - \$10,000 subject to the availability of funds.

10. RECOMMENDATION OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE ON THE COVENANT BETWEEN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AND THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

Rev. Ronald Patterson, Chairperson of Committee #8, presented his report. He referred to Advance Materials I, page 43 and moved receiving of the Report and adopting of the Steering Committee recommendations.

There was a motion to grant privilege of the floor to the Rev. James Gilliom. This was granted by consensus.

Following discussion a motion was made to close debate. It was defeated.

Following further discussion, Mr. Robert Grant moved to suspend the order of the day for five minutes. The motion was defeated.

The Rev. Eugene Grau submitted a friendly amendment to add the words:

"within the framework and consistent with the proposals of Consultation on Church Union" at the end of the first sentence on page 14 of the Report and Recommendation of the Steering Committee." It was not accepted as a friendly amendment. There was a vote on it as an amendment and the motion failed.

Debate was closed and it was

85-GS-60 VOTED: The Fifteenth General Synod receives the report (See Appendix 16.) of the Steering Committee on the Covenant Between the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and adopts the recommendations calling for a new ecumenical partnership between our churches:

ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AND THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

DECLARATION OF ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

The General Synod of the United Church of Christ and the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), declare and celebrate a new ecumenical partnership between the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and identify three primary marks of our ecumenical partnership beginning in 1985: (1) commitment to respond together to the mission God has entrusted to the church, (2) theological work to equip our churches as they grow toward full communion, and (3) common worship with frequent and intentional sharing in the Lord's Supper/Holy Communion.

This ecumenical partnership is to be set within the context of our churches' participation in the Consultation on Church Union. We see the partnership of our two churches as a positive contribution to COCU and its life, even as we receive gifts from the Consultation. Further, we affirm that, in

both our participation in COCU and this ecumenical partnership, our ultimate goal is the oneness of the whole body of Christ.

THEOLOGICAL AFFIRMATIONS FOR OUR LIFE AS ECUMENICAL PARTNERS

As the basis for making this declaration of a new ecumenical partnership:

1. We affirm that the God of Jesus Christ has given the unity of the Church, and that all who confess Jesus Christ as God and Saviour are members one of another in the one body of Christ.
2. We affirm that all who have received the grace of new life in Christ are called to manifest the given unity of the Church for the sake of reconciliation in the Christian community, the reconciliation of humankind, and the fulfillment of God's mission.
3. We affirm that our two churches are kindred in Christ, members together of the one, undivided Church of Jesus Christ.
4. We affirm, with thanksgiving, that our two churches have been called by God and led by the Holy Spirit to be witnesses to the given unity of the Church, and to labor for the unity of all Christians. For our two churches the visible oneness of the whole body of Christ is the ultimate goal and overarching context in which this ecumenical partnership will evolve.
5. We affirm and rejoice in the long history of our partnership in the Gospel, and give thanks for the grace of God that has brought us, through conversation, covenanted studies and cooperation in mission to a new threshold in our life as partners in the one Church.
6. Affirming the mercies of God, we express deep sorrow and penitence that our two churches participate in the separations and divisions that violate the will of God for the one body, and that hinder the mission of God to bring wholeness and unity to the human family.
7. Affirming that "all are one in Christ Jesus," and that "Christ is our peace," we hear with urgency God's call to our two churches to claim together the signs of a fuller communion, namely, the recognition of one baptism and one eucharist, the mutual recognition of members, the recognition and reconciliation of ministries, the common commitment to confess the Gospel of Christ by proclamation and service to the world, and openness to common decision making.
8. We affirm that God, who in the crucified and risen Christ acted to bring the world to wholeness, calls for our obedience and sacrifice from every center of pain and injustice, hunger and homelessness, violence and peril of war, and all wasted and endangered environments.
9. We affirm these essential elements in the common journey to be God's people: life in a worshipping community, the treasuring of scripture and the apostolic faith, and self-giving discipleship in and for the world. These, together with other graces from God, nourish members of the one Church and support God's saving mission to the whole creation.
10. We affirm that our brokenness is transcended at the Table of Christ Jesus where we are called to confess our

sinfulness and receive the cup "poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins" (Matt. 26:28). There we discover our given unity in Christ, "for we all partake of the one bread." (I Cor. 10:17). There we are empowered by God's grace to witness to the saving acts and presence of the crucified and risen Christ.

IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

In order to give concrete expression, meaning and direction to the ecumenical partnership:

- I. The General Assembly and the General Synod establish an Ecumenical Partnership Committee with responsibility to
 - A. Provide general guidelines to the Ecumenical Partnership in the following areas:

1. MISSION

Local churches, associations, regions and conferences, instrumentalities and general units, seminaries, and all other bodies in the two churches will be called upon to commit themselves, in all possible areas, to expressions of common mission, building on those that already exist and creating new initiatives. In particular, appropriate national and regional/conference bodies are called upon to begin, during the 1985-87 biennium, coordinated planning and, wherever possible, joint staffing in areas of mission such as: education, evangelism, peace with justice, economic justice and human equality.

Opportunities for the ecumenical expression of mission will also be encouraged with other Christian bodies, particularly those with whom we share in the Consultation on Church Union.

2. THEOLOGICAL WORK

The Ecumenical Partnership Committee will encourage in both churches the process of receiving and claiming the theological convergence of the World Council of Churches, Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry, and the theological consensus of the Consultation on Church Union, *In Quest of a Church of Christ Uniting*, as guides for understanding the theology of Christian unity. Building upon this work, the Ecumenical Partnership Committee is asked to develop recommendations for submission to the General Assembly and General Synod in 1989 regarding actions that would lead to full communion between our two churches, which includes mutual recognition of baptism, full eucharistic fellowship, the mutual recognition of members and ordained ministers, the common commitment to confess the gospel of Christ by proclamation and service to the word, and common decision-making.

3. WORSHIP

Recognizing the centrality of worship in the life and witness of the Church, a service of Word and Sacrament be prepared to celebrate the Ecumenical Partnership. This service will be used in national, conference/regional, area, and local celebrations beginning with the General Assembly and General Synod in 1987. The Ecumenical Partnership Committee is asked to assist in familiarizing the churches with each other's worship resources, to prepare and provide resources for education in worship, including the significance of the sacraments and worship resources from Christian traditions throughout the world.

Worship is a significant aspect of our growing relationship. Frequent shared worship will be encouraged so that congregations and the various plenary bodies and boards of our churches might build on this foundation. Wider ecumenical worship is to be encouraged, including a growing use of the worship resources of the Consultation on Church Union.

- B. Listen and respond to the partnership experiences of people throughout the two churches, so that insights might be shared and deepened.
 - C. Encourage understanding of and participation in the Ecumenical Partnership in order that it may be claimed more fully throughout the two churches.
 - D. Formulate and make recommendations, at appropriate times, on further specific steps and activities between these two churches in the pursuit of full communion and visible unity.
- II. The General Assembly and the General Synod authorize, respectively, the Administrative Committee of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the Executive Council of the United Church of Christ to elect ten persons to the membership of the Ecumenical Partnership Committee. The presidents of each church shall be included in the delegations. In addition, provision shall be made for the inclusion of two ecumenical members from other churches in the Consultation on Church Union. The Administrative Committee and the Executive Council shall develop common procedures for establishing the terms of office as well as the orderly replacement of members. The Ecumenical Partnership Committee shall report biennially to the General Assembly and the General Synod through the General Board and the Executive Council.
- III. The General Assembly and General Synod authorize the Administrative Committee and Executive Council to negotiate with the appropriate bodies in the two churches for staff and funds to implement the work of the Ecumenical Partnership Committee. It is understood that in accomplishing its mandate the Ecumenical Partnership Committee will seek inclusive and collegial participation in the partnership endeavors.
- IV. As part of our search for growing relatedness and as a concrete way to express common decision-making, the General Assembly and General Synod encourage all governing and decision-making bodies to explore the possibility of moving toward ecumenical membership, with voice and (where possible) vote, from the partner church.

CONCLUSION

The General Synod and General Assembly call upon all congregations, districts and areas, associations, regions and conferences, institutions and national bodies to encourage and implement this partnership. In shared mission, growing theological understanding, and worship, we look forward to the leadership of God's spirit in our midst.

In adopting this proposal, we celebrate and declare to each other and before the world a new Ecumenical Partnership which we pray God will bless, enrich, and use as together we seek to be more faithfully and fully the people God calls us to become.

After the vote, the Fifteenth General Synod sang the "Doxology." At this time, President Post introduced three members of the national staff of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ): Rev. Nancy Brink Spleth, Rev. Don Manworren, and Rev. Kenneth Teegarden, President. Rev. Teegarden greeted the General Synod.

11. PILGRIM PRESS AWARDS

The Moderator called on Rev. Charles Shelby Rooks, Executive Vice President of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, who introduced the recipient of the Pilgrim Press Award and representatives of the churches recognized for their work in evangelism and church growth. They were:

Trinity United Church of Christ, Chicago, Illinois; The Rev. Jeremiah Wright, Jr., senior minister; Accepting the award at the General Synod were the Rev. Barbara Allen, associate minister, and the Rev. Wayne Robinson, minister of Christian Education.

The Colonial Church of Edina, Edina, Minnesota; The Rev. Arthur A. Rouner, senior minister; Accepting the award at the General Synod were Rev. Rouner and Ms. Sue Lincoln.

The Congregational Church of Algonquin, Illinois; The Rev. Gary Miller, senior minister; Accepting the award at the General Synod were Rev. Miller and Mr. Richard Elke.

The Asylum Hill Congregational Church, Hartford, Connecticut; The Rev. James Kidd, senior minister; Accepting the award at the General Synod was the Rev. Carroll Kann, Connecticut Conference Minister.

First United Church of Christ, Jupiter, Florida; The Rev. Ned Barnes, founding pastor; Accepting the award at the General Synod was Rev. Barnes.

First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Port St. Lucie, Florida; The Rev. Arlo Vandlen, founding pastor; Accepting the award at the General Synod were Rev. Vandlen and Mrs. Gerry Vandlen.

Filipino United Church of Christ, Waipahu, Hawaii; The Rev. Cipriano Pasoquen, pastor; Accepting the award at the General Synod was Rev. Pasoquen.

First Filipino Christian Church, United Church of Christ, Winnipeg, Manitoba; The Rev. Rolando Paraiso, founding pastor; Accepting the award at the General Synod was the Rev. Karl Limvere.

12. AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN GIVING TO OUR CHURCH'S WIDER MISSION

For the next awards, the Moderator called on Rev. George W. Otto, Executive Director of the Stewardship Council, who recognized the following Conferences receiving awards for Outstanding Achievement in giving to Our Church's Wider Mission Basic Support.

- Wisconsin: Largest dollar increase in Total Basic Support in 1984
- Florida: Largest per member increase in Total Basic Support in 1984
- Connecticut: Largest dollar increase in National Basic Support in 1984
- Southwest: Largest percentage increase for Total Basic Support during five years from 1979-1984.