

TUESDAY MORNING, JULY 2

12. Calls upon the President of the United Church of Christ to strengthen our ecumenical partnership with the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa and to initiate planning for a Day of Prayer for the people of South Africa, inviting church bodies in South Africa to join us in that solemn observance, in faith and hope that repentance and redemption might be revealed through the healing love of God in Jesus Christ.
13. Requests the United Church Board for World Ministries and Commission for Racial Justice to coordinate this Proposal for Action and calls upon the instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ to make a detailed report to the Sixteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ.

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

22. RECOGNITION

The Moderator called on Rev. Charles Shelby Rooks, Executive Director of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, who called Ms. Helen Webber, a staff member of the Board who is retiring at the end of her term in 1986. Ms. Webber was thanked for her work by Rev. M. Dosia Carlson and Mr. Daniel Caplan. She was presented with a banner.

23. REQUEST FOR A POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Rev. David Finster requested a point of personal privilege,

which was granted. His statement is quoted below:

"At this Synod we have adopted positions supporting the family farmer and we have resolved to affirm a boycott of table grapes. These two initiatives must be tied together. To accomplish this, the Northern California and Nebraska delegations (which met last night) ask that:

"The President of the United Church of Christ, Rev. Avery Post, and the Executive Vice President of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, Rev. Charles Shelby Rooks, prepare a pastoral letter and take other initiatives directed to the California UCC congregations and possibly others which interpret these actions of the Fifteenth General Synod.

Furthermore, we request that the pastoral letter invite input from small family table grape growers as to how the United Church of Christ might best offer resources which visibly and concretely express the Synod's caring and concern for any inadvertent harm which might come to them from the boycott."

24. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Moderator called upon Secretary Carol Joyce Brun to give the announcements. Among the announcements, it was mentioned that the divestment list asked for is available from Ms. Audrey Smock's office.

25. RECESS

The Moderator declared the Fifteenth General Synod in recess at 11:35 a.m. until the afternoon session.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 2

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Assistant Moderator, Ms. Janece L. Dent called the Fifteenth General Synod to order. At this time, Ms. Dent called on Rev. Carol Joyce Brun to conduct Speak Out.

2. SPEAK OUT

The one minute presentations during this Speak Out session were: Special thanks to Worship Committee, and to those responsible for planning the Bible studies; Challenge OCLL to strategize to help newly ordained clergy with placement; Seating of non-UCC delegates should be looked into; Encourage local churches to use the UCC Desk Calendar; Introduction of "youth delegate", Mr. Owen Fox, 84 years young; Concern of parents of children, particularly aged 3-10 years, about toys on the market (mostly at Christmas time), that help children play at war (particularly guns, hand grenades and billy clubs); BHM is on the verge of new policy about domestic disasters; Churches and Conferences need to be at work with BHM on this—think ahead—be prepared; Request that the powers that be, be consistent in their efforts to seek justice, and peace; Keep open the doors to local church people; What about the hostages held by the Israelis, where is our concern?

3. HELPING THOSE WHO SUFFER FROM CHRONIC MENTAL ILLNESS

Rev. Sandra Graham, Wisconsin Conference, on behalf of Committee #24, moved that the Fifteenth General Synod adopt the resolution, "For Helping Those Who Suffer From

Chronic Mental Illness." A friendly amendment was made and incorporated into the resolution to strike "this illness" at the end of the first paragraph under THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, and substitute, "from these disorders."

After discussion,

85-GS-67 VOTED: The Fifteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "For Helping Those Who Suffer From Chronic Mental Illness."

FOR HELPING THOSE WHO SUFFER FROM CHRONIC MENTAL ILLNESS

WHEREAS, Jesus' ministry of healing extended to those afflicted in mind and spirit, we believe Christ's example should be followed in bringing "fullness of life" to all. Those who suffer from chronic mental illness are often people society forgets about or against whom society discriminates. They are certainly people we don't know well because they usually live outside the mainstream of life. Within regular church life, we have few models of how to meet the needs of these persons. As Christians, we need to be better informed and to find ways to help; and

WHEREAS, there are perhaps 10 million persons in this country who are afflicted with chronic mental illness; and

WHEREAS, often, many are without the proper support in the community to adequately care for themselves because

of de-institutionalization during the past two decades; and
WHEREAS, these people may account for more than 50 per cent of the homeless; and

WHEREAS, because of ignorance or perpetuation of myths, the mentally ill are often discriminated against in finding housing and employment opportunities; and

WHEREAS, while there is no known cure for chronic mental illness, those who are afflicted can be helped by proper medical treatment and by the emotional support of caring family and friends; and

WHEREAS, we are called to be instruments of God's love to all and especially to those who are ill, discriminated against, lonely, unaccepted and neglected;

THEREFORE, The Fifteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ:

Requests that the appropriate division of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, in cooperation with the Council for Health and Human Services establish a network throughout the United Church of Christ, actively to develop and disseminate information about the nature of chronic mental illness and which can fight discrimination and fear directed toward those suffering from these disorders;

Encourages congregations to develop specific programs of church wide education on mental health and illness to help dispel the ignorance, fear and stigma so prevalent in our society;

Encourages congregations to reach out to persons with chronic mental illness and welcome them into the community of Christ and extend the ministry of care to their families;

Encourages congregations, within their local communities, to coordinate and to help establish and support supervised apartments or group homes, employment projects and constructive daily activities for those suffering chronic mental illness;

Calls upon local congregations and national instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ, especially the Office for Church in Society, the appropriate division of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries and the Council for Health and Human Services to be advocates for supporting the needs of those in our communities who suffer from chronic mental illness.

No financial implications.

4. HOMELESS YOUTH

Rev. Sandra Graham, on behalf of Committee #24, also moved that the Fifteenth General Synod adopt the Resolution on, "Homeless Youth." The newly elected Executive Council member, class of 1991, Mr. Antoine Crenshaw spoke to the resolution, as did other delegates.

85-GS-68 VOTED: The Fifteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "Homeless Youth."

HOMELESS YOUTH

WHEREAS, youth are increasingly victimized by dreadful housing shortages and deteriorating family conditions; and

WHEREAS, many youth are forced into the streets at an early age; and

WHEREAS, young people's lives are constantly being physi-

cally, mentally and spiritually threatened, resulting in drug abuse, prostitution and ultimately, suicide; and,

WHEREAS, the homeless youth situation causes pain and suffering, for the homeless youth and for family units thus broken; and

WHEREAS, the homeless youth are often diverted to other ways of life not prescribed by the good news of the gospel; and

WHEREAS, the Church is called to care for the oppressed, the hurting, and the homeless; and

WHEREAS, General Synod XIV voted a youth/young adult ministry priority,

THEREFORE, the Fifteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ requests that the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries:

—Initiate the development of programs identifying and addressing the needs of homeless youth;

—Create effective models of preventive counseling ministries in consultation with youth, young adults, other adults and appropriate resources;

—Report its progress and actions to the Executive Council by the Fall of 1986;

—Apprise the conferences, associations, local churches and appropriate instrumentalities of the needs of homeless youth as well as suggested models for action.

Financial Implications: The implementation of this resolution is subject to availability of funds.

4. HUNGRY AND HOMELESS

Ms. Graham then moved on behalf of Committee #24 that the Fifteenth General Synod adopt the Resolution on, "The Hungry and the Homeless." Ms. Graham spoke to the resolution. There was discussion. Rev. Peggy McClanahan (NEB), moved to add at the end of the "therefore" second paragraph: "and the positive results of our ministry among them."

Another amendment was moved by Rev. Wes Haynes, Maine Conference,

"Be it further resolved that the Fifteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ:

—urges that local congregations, associations, conferences, agencies and instrumentalities be voices for and with the poor in advocating public policies which address the systemic causes and the inadequate funding of programs which have increased the number of hungry and homeless in our society."

The Amendment was adopted.

85-GS-69 VOTED: The Fifteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "The Hungry and the Homeless" as amended.

THE HUNGRY AND THE HOMELESS

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has been given a Gospel mandate to feed the hungry and to share our daily bread with our neighbor; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, "Hunger in America a Growing Epidemic," a recent study by the Physicians' Task Force on Hunger in America, shows that as many as