

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