

20,000,000 people are likely to go hungry at least two days each month; and

WHEREAS, recent studies estimate that there are 10,000 homeless people in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area and 30,000 in the St. Louis metropolitan area, and there are many, homeless throughout America; and

WHEREAS, the Physicians' Task Force estimates that \$5 to \$7 billion a year in added outlays for food aid would end the hunger problem in the United States alone; and

WHEREAS, there is still much work to be done in advocating and providing services for the hungry and the homeless;

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

—Affirms the efforts of congregations, associations, conferences and instrumentalities as they have responded to the call of Christ heard in the voices of the poor of our nation;

—Urges the Stewardship Council, during the biennium 1985-1987 to highlight the work of congregations and agencies ministering among the homeless and the hungry of our land, dramatizing as boldly as possible the suffering of the poor, and the positive results of our ministry among them;

—Requests that the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, in consultation with the Council of Conference Ministers, create and implement a design which provides funding, staff support and encouragement to assist congregations in feeding the hungry and housing the homeless;

—Asks that the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries submit a report to the Sixteenth General Synod.

FURTHER, 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.

Financial Implications: subject to the availability of funds.

## 6. INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE LECTIONARY: A CASE OF CENSORING HOLY SCRIPTURES

The Moderator called on Ms. Carol Fujita of the Southern California Conference, Chairperson of Committee #22. Ms. Fujita presented the Resolution submitted by 7 local churches in Illinois as new business by Rev. David Kimberly (NY), "Inclusive Language Lectionary: A Case of Censoring the Holy Scriptures."

Ms. Fujita moved on behalf of Committee #22, that no action be taken on this resolution.

85-GS-70 VOTED: The Fifteenth General Synod takes no action on the resolution "Inclusive Language Lectionary: A Case of Censoring the Scripture".

## 7. DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT OF PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

The Assistant Moderator, Mr. Guy T. Outlaw moved to the microphone and called on Rev. Robert Brauning, (NEB),

Chairperson of Committee #17 who spoke to the committee report. On behalf of the Committee, Mr. Brauning moved that the Fifteenth General Synod adopt the Resolution on, "The Discriminatory Treatment of Prisoners of Conscience. Mr. Brauning then spoke to the resolution as did many others.

An amendment was moved, seconded and discussed to change the following:

Paragraph 1, line 2: add "all" before prisoners, strike the rest of the paragraph and substitute "especially prisoners of conscience". The amendment was defeated.

85-GS-71 VOTED: The Fifteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "The Discriminatory Treatment of Prisoners of Conscience."

## THE DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT OF PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

### THEOLOGICAL RATIONALE

The New Testament Scriptures inform us that Christ had a concern and an interest for those who were in captivity and imprisoned. This concern is reflected in the beginning of His public ministry where in Luke 4:16-20 He says that He is the One who has come to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and release to the captive and freedom to the oppressed.

Hebrews 13:3 reminds us to "Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity as being yourselves also in the body."

Jesus clearly manifested in Matthew 25:31-40 his personal concern for incarcerated people and emphasized that the relationship with those in need is part of our Christian responsibility. "When did we see you, Lord? . . . When I was in prison you came to me. If you do it to the least of these, my brothers and sisters, you have done it unto me."

The Scriptures commit us to bring to your attention the cry for justice and mercy for prisoners who are subjected to discriminatory treatment from the prison officials. Because we are called by Christ to bring the good news to the captives and to preach release to the oppressed, we have a responsibility to improve the prison conditions of prisoners.

WHEREAS, participants at the UCC National Meeting of Women in July 1984 were moved by an urgent concern for the plight of incarcerated women, particularly of Alejandrina Torres in the Metropolitan Correctional Center in Chicago, and sent to Norman Carlson, Director of the U.S. Bureau of Prisons, 500 letters of protest which condemned such inhuman treatment; and

WHEREAS, the President of the UCC appointed an Investigative Team which included representation from the CCW, the Executive Council, and other national bodies to look into the conditions of the imprisonment of Alejandrina Torres; and

WHEREAS, continued investigation by Church representatives has revealed treatment which violates the civil and human rights of prisoners who conscientiously object to a particular position of their governments;

WHEREAS, women who are prisoners of conscience have been subjected to particular physical and mental cruelties not practiced with other inmates such as restricted visiting

and correspondence privileges, frequent prison transfers, sexual harassment, sensory deprivation and other forms of isolation, physical assaults, denial of clergy visits, delayed medical treatment, and other discriminatory practices; and

WHEREAS, constitutional rights afforded to pre-trial detainees have been violated; and

WHEREAS, the press, television, and radio have not covered the unjust prison treatment these persons receive; and

WHEREAS, all of the above findings have been confirmed by the First Congregational Church of Chicago, staff of the Chicago Metropolitan Association of the UCC, and the Civic-Religious Committee (ecumenical).

THEREFORE, the Fifteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ through the instrumentalities and national bodies:

1. Develops a national network of pastoral care to ensure the humane treatment of prisoners of conscience such as Alejandrina Torres, Maria Torres, Ida Luz Rodriguez, Dylcia Pagan, Carmen Valentine, Maria Cueto, and others.
2. Works to improve the treatment of prisoners through changes in the policies and procedures of the Justice Department, the Bureau of Prisons, the Congress, and other appropriate agencies.
3. Identifies and promotes educational programs on the plight of prisoners in cooperation with UCC conferences, associations, and local churches.
4. Incorporates this concern into UCC and ecumenical advocacy networks.

Financial implications will be between \$5,000 and \$15,000 subject to the availability of funds.

After the vote, President Post rose to speak to some of the grave personal hardships endured by Ms. Alejandrina Torres in the Chicago prison, he reported on some of the recommendations made by an investigative group.

#### **8. RESPONDING TO DEVELOPMENT OF SPACE WEAPONRY**

The Moderator called on Rev. Penny Greer, (OHIO) and Chairperson of Committee #23, who clarified the changes noted or made by Committee #23 in the Advance Materials. Ms. Greer moved on behalf of the committee that the Fifteenth General Synod adopt, "Responding to Development of Space Weaponry."

Mr. Nyle Utterback a nuclear scientist and UCC member from Southern California was invited by Ms. Greer to speak to the Resolution. There was discussion, then

85-GS-72 VOTED: The Fifteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "Responding to Development of Space Weaponry."

#### **RESPONDING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPACE WEAPONRY**

WHEREAS, our Christian faith leads us to believe that the biblical vision of "shalom," in which all people enjoy peace, security and well-being, is God's will for the world, and that we are called to be makers of "shalom" and agents of reconciliation, and

WHEREAS, the United States and USSR are proceeding with

production, testing and deployment of sophisticated weapons designed to destroy "enemy" satellites, and

WHEREAS, production, testing and deployment of such anti-satellite weapons (ASATs) would put satellites in jeopardy, thereby destabilizing relations by increasing anxiety about a first strike attack, and

WHEREAS, the new United States Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) threatens to exacerbate tensions at a time when U.S. - U.S.S.R negotiation and agreements on arms control are essential, and

WHEREAS, the SDI involves an unprecedented use of human, fiscal and scientific resources, estimated by a senior Defense Department spokesperson to be at least eight times that used by the Manhattan Project for the development of the atomic bomb, and would divert these resources from other domestic and military programs, and

WHEREAS, a large number of prominent scientists and other experts have expressed opposition to funding the SDI, claiming that space-based defense against nuclear weapons is technologically unworkable and economically unfeasible (\$30 billion for research and development over the next five years; estimates near \$1 trillion for total system deployment), and

WHEREAS, the United States and U.S.S.R., recognizing that a "defensive" weapons race would produce a corresponding "offensive" weapons race, negotiated the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty of 1972, which would be abrogated by proceeding with full-scale development of the "defensive" systems under the SDI, and

WHEREAS, the Fourteenth General Synod called upon "the United States administration to negotiate a ban on all weapons in space, meanwhile not funding production of defensive or offensive weapons."

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

1. Calls upon all nations to halt testing of anti-satellite weapons and to negotiate a permanent ban on these weapons.
2. Calls upon all nations to end research, development, testing, production and deployment of defensive and offensive space weapons systems (ground-, air-, sea-, or space-based) and to negotiate a comprehensive ban on testing, production and deployment of these weapons by any nation.
3. Calls upon the United States Congress to discontinue funding for the Strategic Defense Initiative.
4. Calls upon the United States Congress to reaffirm the necessity of strict adherence to the terms of the ABM Treaty, meanwhile not funding any program, which jeopardizes United States compliance with the Treaty.
5. Calls upon members and congregations of the United Church of Christ to work for policies opposed to space weapons.
6. Calls upon the President of the United Church of Christ to communicate this resolution to the President of the United States, the First Secretary of the Communist Party of the USSR, members of Congress, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State and the Joint Chiefs of Staff.