

13. GERALD BOCK'S DAUGHTER'S ILLNESS

An announcement was made by President Post that the daughter of Rev. Gerald Bock, of the Missouri delegation was hospitalized in St. Louis, in a semi-coma. The body gathered in silent prayer, mentally at her bedside.

14. RESOLUTION, "CALLING ON UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CONGREGATIONS TO COVENANT AS OPEN AND AFFIRMING"

The Moderator, Rev. John Krueger, called on Ms. Olivia White of South Central Conference who explained the work of Committee #30. The following corrections were made:

corrected the fourth word on line two of the paragraph, "THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED." The word "affirms" should read "encourages."

Ms. White, on behalf of the Committee, moved that the Fifteenth General Synod adopt the Resolution, "To Covenant as Open and Affirming." Ms. White then spoke to the motion.

There was discussion and an amendment was moved, seconded and discussed about changes to line 3. The amendment was defeated.

A friendly amendment was accepted to change the title of the Resolution, to "Calling on UCC Congregations to Covenant as Open and Affirming."

An amendment was moved, seconded and discussed about adding another paragraph. The amendment was defeated.

Another amendment was moved, seconded and discussed to strike out "bisexual." The amendment was defeated.

Another amendment was moved, seconded and discussed. It then became a substitute motion.

15. INVITATION TO CLEVELAND, OHIO FOR THE SIXTEENTH GENERAL SYNOD

The Moderator announced the Order of the Day requires that we move on. He then introduced Rev. Thomas Dipko and friends who gave a light-hearted promotion for the Sixteenth General Synod in Cleveland, Ohio, June 26-30, 1987.

16. BIENNIAL BUDGET 1986-1987

The Moderator called on Mr. Ronald Hamelberg, Chairperson of the Finance and Budget Committee of the Business Committee (Executive Council), who moved on behalf of the Business Committee the adoption of the Biennial Budget as presented in Advance Materials II, page 31. This was seconded by Ms. Marilyn Burdick of the Budget Committee of the Business Committee.

85-GS-75 VOTED: The Fifteenth General Synod adopts the Biennial Budget report:

BIENNIAL BUDGET OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

	1986	1987
General Synod	\$1,068,000	\$1,107,000
CCW	146,600	151,800
EEO/AA	65,400	67,800
UCC/Disciples	20,000	20,700
COREM	12,400	12,800
PAAM	20,000	20,700
Hispanic Council	20,000	20,700
Gen. Synod Meeting	194,200	201,300
Contributions	132,000	137,000
UCBWM	3,002,000	3,113,000

UCBHM	2,722,000	2,823,000
Pension Boards	1,093,000	1,134,000
OCIS	665,000	688,000
OCLL	1,080,000	1,120,000
Stewardship Council	1,152,000	1,195,000
Commission on Development	147,800	152,800
Office of Communication	644,700	667,600
KYP	57,400	59,500
CRJ	954,500	990,000
Interim Internal Communications	251,000	260,300
	<u>13,448,000</u>	<u>13,943,000</u>
Contingencies	52,000	57,000
TOTAL	13,500,000	14,000,000

17. CONTINUATION OF OPEN AND AFFIRMING COVENANT

The Discussion on the substitute motion concerning the Resolution, "Calling on UCC Congregations to Covenant as Open and Affirming," was continued.

An amendment was moved, seconded and discussed regarding deleting words in lines 7 & 8. The amendment was defeated. Debate was closed by 2/3 vote and, it was

85-GS-76 VOTED: The Fifteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution now titled "Calling On UCC Congregations to Covenant As Open and Affirming."

CALLING ON UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CONGREGATIONS TO COVENANT AS OPEN AND AFFIRMING

WHEREAS, the Apostle Paul said that, as Christians, we are many members, but we are one body in Christ (Rom. 12:4), and Jesus calls us to love our neighbors as ourselves (Mk. 12:31) without being judgmental (Mt. 7:1-2) nor disparaging of others (Lk. 18:9-14); and

WHEREAS, recognizing that many persons of lesbian, gay and bisexual orientation are already members of the Church through baptism and confirmation and that these people have talents and gifts to offer the United Church of Christ, and that the UCC has historically affirmed a rich diversity in its theological and Biblical perspectives; and

WHEREAS, the Tenth through Fourteenth General Synods have adopted resolutions encouraging the inclusion, and affirming the human rights, of lesbian, gay and bisexual people within the UCC; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Council of the United Church of Christ adopted in 1980 "a program of Equal Employment Opportunity which does not discriminate against any employee or applicant because of . . . sexual orientation"; and

WHEREAS, many parts of the Church have remained conspicuously silent despite the continuing injustice of institutionalized discrimination, instances of senseless violence and setbacks in civil rights protection by the Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, the Church has often perpetuated discriminatory practices and has been unwilling to affirm the full humanness of clergy, laity and staff with lesbian, gay and bisexual orientation, who experience isolation, ostracism and fear of (or actual) loss of employment; and

WHEREAS, we are called by Christ's example, to proclaim release to the captives and set at liberty the oppressed (Lk. 4:18); and

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 2

WHEREAS, examples of covenant of Openness and Affirmation and Non-discrimination Policy may be found in the following:

Example 1:

COVENANT OF OPENNESS AND AFFIRMATION

We know, with Paul, that as Christians, we are many members, but are one body in Christ—members of one another, and that we all have different gifts. With Jesus, we affirm that we are called to love our neighbors as ourselves, that we are called to act as agents of reconciliation and wholeness within the world and within the Church itself.

We know that lesbian, gay and bisexual people are often scorned by the church, and devalued and discriminated against both in the Church and in society. We commit ourselves to caring and concern for lesbian, gay and bisexual sisters and brothers by affirming that:

—we believe that lesbian, gay and bisexual people share with all others the worth that comes from being unique individuals,

—we welcome lesbian, gay and bisexual people to join our congregation in the same spirit and manner used in the acceptance of any new members,

—we recognize the presence of ignorance, fear and hatred in the Church and in our culture, and covenant to not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation, nor any other irrelevant factor, and we seek to include and support those who, because of this fear and prejudice, find themselves in exile from a spiritual community,

—we seek to address the needs and advocate the concerns of lesbian, gay and bisexual people in our Church and in society by actively encouraging churches, instrumentalities and secular governmental bodies to adopt and implement policies of non-discrimination, and further,

—we join together as a covenantal community, to celebrate and share our common communion and the reassurance that we are indeed created by God, reconciled by Christ and empowered by the grace of the Holy Spirit;

Example 2:

INCLUSIVE NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

We do not discriminate against any person, group or organization in hiring, promotion, membership, appointment, use of facility, provision of services or funding on the basis of race, gender, age, sexual orientation, faith, nationality, ethnicity, marital status, or physical disability;

THEREFORE, the Fifteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourages a policy of non-discrimination in employment, volunteer service and membership policies with regard to sexual orientation; encourages associations, conferences and all related organizations to adopt a similar policy; and

encourages the congregations of the United Church of Christ to adopt a non-discrimination policy and a Covenant of Openness and Affirmation of persons of lesbian, gay and bisexual orientation within the community of faith.

No financial implications.

18. SPEAK OUT

The Moderator called on Rev. Carol Joyce Brun to conduct Speak Out. The issues raised included: We are urged to continue to seek. "The Word of Life"; Appreciation for Synod tote bags; Reaching out in love is needed to National Association of Congregational Christian Churches, who were also in a national meeting that day; Spiritual Development Network, based in Nebraska, is holding a national conference this fall. This is one way to start acting on the priority for Spiritual Renewal; structure of UCC makes Priority Process difficult to implement; consider church identity as a priority for next General Synod; and an Invitation to a Gay/Lesbian party to be held that night.

19. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Moderator called upon Rev. Carol Joyce Brun to give the announcements which included news of Rev. Gerald Bock's daughter who was reported in a coma and was now recovering.

20. RECESS

The Moderator declared the Fifteenth General Synod in recess until 7:00 p.m.

TUESDAY EVENING, JULY 2

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Moderator, Rev. John Krueger, called the Fifteenth General Synod to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. GREETINGS TO THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

Mr. Krueger called on President Avery Post to respond to the concern expressed in the Speak Out about sending greetings to the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches. Mr. Post moved and it was seconded,

85-GS-77 VOTED: The Fifteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ sends greetings to the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches now in session in Gorham, Maine and rejoices in our common faith in Jesus Christ, The Word of Life.

3. OPEN HEARING ON CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

The Moderator suggested and put into effect an open hearing for a period of fifteen minutes for the purpose of discussion on making the Charitable Contributions Law Permanent.

4. SUPPORT OF MAKING THE CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS LAW PERMANENT

The Moderator called on Mr. Lorin Cope, Chairperson of Committee #13 who moved that General Synod Fifteen adopt the Resolution "In Support of Making the Charitable Contributions Law Permanent."

85-GS-78 VOTED: The Fifteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ, joins the National Council of