

Church's life with programs of consciousness raising and education with respect to the unique contributions the more experienced clergy have to give the Church.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Sixteenth General Synod requests the Office for Church Life and Leadership, in cooperation with conference and association ministers and placement personnel, to develop a program for training search committees at all levels of the Church to evaluate the needs of the local church or denominational office to be filled, to assess the unique and proven abilities of clergy of whatever age, and to interview candidates in a manner designed to call forth those positive qualities of maturity, competence, experience, and proven ability each has to offer.

5. PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN

Mr. David Stabenfeldt, Chairperson of Committee 17, presented the Resolution. "Peaceful Coexistence Between India and Pakistan" and recommended its adoption.

87-GS-109 VOTED: The Sixteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "Peaceful Coexistence between India and Pakistan."

Peaceful Coexistence Between India and Pakistan

The Sixteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ requests that the United Church Board for World Ministries study the issue of Peaceful Coexistence Between Pakistan and India, and that the United Church Board for World Ministries present the results of their findings and possible plans for action and implementation at the time of the Seventeenth General Synod in Ft. Worth, Texas.

6. REV. JAMES SMUCKER RECOGNIZED

The New York Conference recognized Rev. James Smucker, Conference Minister of New York. Mr. Smucker was scheduled to retire on September 30th. His compassion and leadership were cited.

7. RESOLUTION "AFFIRMATION OF ACTIONS OF FIFTEENTH GENERAL SYNOD REGARDING THE FARM CRISIS"

The Moderator called on Mr. Theodore Goble, Chairperson of Committee 27, to present the Resolution "Affirmation of the Action of the Fifteenth General Synod Regarding the Farm Crisis."

During discussion an amendment and an amendment to the amendment was made, but both were defeated.

87-GS-110 VOTED: The Sixteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "Affirmation of Actions of the Fifteenth General Synod Regarding the Farm Crisis."

Affirmation of the Actions of the Fifteenth General Synod Regarding the Farm Crisis

WHEREAS, the Fifteenth General Synod of the UCC adopted a Pronouncement "The Crisis of People and the Land," and a Resolution "The Family Farm, which recommended action in four areas:

1. educational resources and programs;
2. involvement by churches and UCC instrumentalities;
3. public policy advocacy; and
4. national legislative actions; and

WHEREAS, the rural crisis continues to deepen, and extended efforts are essential;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Sixteenth General

Synod reaffirms the referenced Pronouncement "The Crisis of People and the Land" and the Resolution "The Family Farm" and requests the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries to continue, and to increase its efforts to fulfill the objectives of the referenced Pronouncement and Resolution.

8. RECOGNITION OF THE CONFERENCES OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST INSURANCE ADVISORY BOARD

The Moderator called on Mr. Richard Riddoch, Chairperson of Committee 29, to present the Resolution "Recognition of the Conferences of the United Church of Christ Insurance Advisory Board." Mr. Riddoch recommended its adoption.

87-GS-111 VOTED: The Sixteenth General Synod adopts the following statement and instructs the Secretary of the Church to add it to the section in published editions of the Constitution and By-Laws of the United Church of Christ which is entitled "General Synod Actions Related to National Bodies":

Conferences of the United Church of Christ Insurance Advisory Board

The Sixteenth General Synod recognizes the Conferences of the United Church of Christ Insurance Advisory Board as an organization established by participating conferences of the United Church of Christ. The Board is incorporated as a Non-profit Public Benefit Corporation under the laws of the State of California and has been granted Federal Income Tax Exemption by the Internal Revenue Service in a ruling dated February 6, 1986. It is governed through a Board of Directors elected at an Annual Meeting of Conference Ministers of member conferences.

9. MR. KENNETH P. STEWART RECOGNIZED

The Kansas-Oklahoma Conference recognized Mr. Kenneth Stewart, Moderator of the Sixteenth General Synod, expressing appreciation and commending him for his efforts.

10. RESOLUTION "SEXUALITY AND ABORTION: A FAITHFUL RESPONSE"

The Moderator called on Rev. Eleanor Morrison, Chairperson of Committee 16, who referred the body to Advance Materials III, page 8, for the Resolution "Sexuality and Abortion: A Faithful Response." Ms. Morrison recommended adoption of the Resolution with the following changes:

Under "Therefore be it Resolved," paragraph 2, line 3 substitute the words "before considering" for the words "as well as;" and add the word "or" on line 2 after the word child.

Also add a new Whereas after the fourth Whereas on p. 35. "Whereas, access to birth control is being jeopardized by decreased in Federal Funding for human services, including family planning programs; and certain groups continue their efforts to reverse the Roe v. Wade decision of 1973, which affirms the right to choose a safe and legal abortion; and;"

The Resolution was then put to a vote.

87-GS-112 VOTED: The Sixteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "Sexuality and Abortion: A Faithful Response" as amended.

Sexuality and Abortion: A Faithful Response

WHEREAS, Scripture teaches that all human life is precious in God's sight and teaches the importance of personal moral freedom, and

WHEREAS, previous General Synods, beginning in 1971, have considered the theological and ethical implications of abortion, and have supported its legal availability, while recognizing its