

Nelson Elsenheimer, Chairperson of the Coordinating Center, and Ms. Toyo Nakamura, Co-Chair. She also introduced members Rev. Mary Sue Gast, Chairperson of the Structure Committee, and its members, Ms. Mary Alice McWilliams, Rev. Ralph Quellhorst, Ms. Marjorie Ramp, and Rev. Elinor Galusha.

Mr. Hatfield made mention of the Nebraska Resolution related to the women's structure, as well as all other Resolutions before the General Synod.

The Moderator recognized Rev. Jody Ondich-Batson (NEB), who offered a substitute motion of the Resolution from the Nebraska Conference, as follows:

A Permanent Office for Women's Concerns Women in the Church: An Alternative Proposal

Theological and Biblical Basis

We affirm our unity in Christ. Women have a significant role in the life of the church. Women have concerns and insights which impact the total program of the denomination. These need to be recognized and addressed. Women are an integral part of the world community and need to be recognized as such. The issues and concerns of women require a faithful response by the total church body. The original theological mandate for the Coordinating Center for Women is based on Gen. 1:27 and Gal. 3:27-29. This statement should continue to be the theological mandate for any subsequent structure addressing the concerns of women in the United Church of Christ.

In Christ we are all new creations of God and as such we all have gifts. I Cor. 12:4-7 affirms this. An inclusive interpretation of this text is important. All gifts are from God; we are but stewards of those gifts. Women and men, young and old, need to express their gifts and be recognized for the work they do within the church and for the benefit of the entire community.

Rationale for Why General Synod Should Act Favorably

Much progress has been made on women's concerns. The United Church of Christ should no longer need to separate women from the main body of the church. The time is now right to integrate women fully into the instrumentalities and agencies of the church. A separate women's organization and structure within the United Church of Christ would not achieve this goal. In addition, our current national budget cannot now adequately fund the work that the General Synod has asked our church to do. Funding an entirely new instrumentality would be irresponsible stewardship at this time.

References to Previous General Synod Policy on this Issue

Eighth General Synod Minutes, pp. 29 and 129-30; Ninth General Synod Minutes pp 41-42; 45-46 Tenth General Synod Minutes, pp. 39-41; Twelfth General Synod Minutes, pp. 46-51; United Church of Christ Bylaws paragraphs 218 and 219, establishing the Office for Church Life and Leadership, Tenth General Synod Minutes p. 45, establishing the Office for Church in Society.

Background Information

The United Church of Christ for over one-half of its history

Our Christian faith as well as the economic realities of our time call for responsible and careful stewardship of the resources and funds available to the United Church of Christ.

(16 years) has had a separate national group addressing the concerns and issues which impact women in church and society. These need to be lifted up as an integral part of the entire community of faith.

The goal of the Coordinating Center for Women has been to "transfer as many functions as possible to permanent, existing agencies of the church."

The mandates for the established instrumentalities of the Office for Church Life and Leadership and the Office for Church in Society include sections which address the concerns and issues related to women and identified by the Coordinating Center for Women in its eight-year history.

Policy Statement

The General Synod directs

- a) the Office for Church Life and Leadership to include on its staff a new position which shall be responsible for, but not limited to, addressing the concerns and issues affecting women as they are affirmed in that agency's mandate provisions, and
- b) the Office for Church in Society to include on its staff a new position which shall be responsible for, but not limited to, addressing the concerns and issues affecting women as they are affirmed in the mandate of that office.

These two staff positions will coordinate their efforts in so far as possible so that the concerns of women in church and society become an integral part of the life of the entire United Church of Christ. The Women's Inter-Staff Team will continue as an ongoing entity to coordinate efforts of all instrumentalities and agencies in addressing these concerns and issues.

The Office for Church Life and Leadership and the Office for Church in Society shall be responsible for developing the strategy and program designed to implement this Resolution.

Financial Implications

A total of \$150,000 in 1988 would be required to fund the two new staff positions and implement program. There is no guarantee of funding, funds to be provided through the regular budgeting process.

After discussion, it was moved by Mr. Charles Wilder (NEB) that the original motion and substitute motion be sent to committee. After discussion on the referring to committee, it was 87-GS-36 VOTED: The Sixteenth General Synod refers both the original motion and substitute motion to committee.

A division of the house was called. A count was taken and revealed 373 in favor and 236 against the motion to refer.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RECESS

The Assistant Moderator called on Secretary Carol Joyce Brun for the announcements.

Following the announcements, the Assistant Moderator, Ms. Aletha Kaohi, declared the Sixteenth General Synod to be in recess until 8:40 a.m. Saturday, June 27.