

SUNDAY EVENING, JUNE 28

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Moderator, Mr. Stewart at 7:30 p.m.

2. SPEAK OUT

Rev. Carol Joyce Brun led the speak out with the help of the coordinator, Rev. Richard Sparrow. The speak out was an opportunity for one minute statements of concern on the agenda of the General Synod. It included the following topics:

Resolutions are not enough, delegates and visitors should write to their congresspeople;

Marriage Encounter encourages communication, give it a try;

The St. Louis Association Peace Task Force thinks a point of unity is the United Nations position, information is available from the Office for Church in Society;

Christians for Justice Action announced their Burning Bush Awards to Rev. Bill Briggs and Ms. Susie Briggs, Rev. James Smucker and Rev. Avery Post;

Oppression still exists against Gay/Lesbian persons, particularly those with AIDS; Grieve with the United Church of Christ Lesbian/Gay Coalition and the continuing harassments they experience daily;

United Church of Christ Lesbian/Gay Coalition Choir told of their fear of "us," they urge us to receive their ministries, their lives as well as their music;

We need to break bread with those of other church traditions, pray for and welcome Pope John Paul in the United States;

Let's invite folks to our churches—by using Official United Church of Christ emblems, logos as road markers, welcome indicators;

Bring Argentine voices to the United States for the Sixteenth General Synod—to be with them in their terror, and

Greetings from United Church of Christ Fellowship in the Arts—"Songs of Hope and Peace" published through their efforts is available.

3. GENERAL SYNOD PRIORITIES VOTING RESULTS

The voting results on UCC priorities were announced.

Youth and Young Adult Ministries	544
Homeless	466
Family Life	61
Evangelism & Church Growth	278

Youth and Young Adult Ministries was adopted for two years by a vote of 506 to 99 and Ministry to the Homeless for four years. These are the two new priorities.

4. UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST SANCTUARY MISSION

Rev. Isaac McDonald (SOC) moved on behalf of Committee 24 the adoption of the Resolution "United Church of Christ Sanctuary Mission."

One change in the printed text was made.

87-GS-45 VOTED: The Sixteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "United Church of Christ Sanctuary Mission."

United Church of Christ Sanctuary Mission

WHEREAS, refugees in El Salvador and Guatemala, every day, are fleeing their countries to escape "Death Squads," dangers of persecution, torture and murder, and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ at the 1981 Thirteenth General Synod called upon the United Church of Christ to become a "Peace Church," and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ at the 1985 Fifteenth General Synod called upon the United Church of Christ to become a "Just Peace Church," stating peace and justice cannot be separated, and

WHEREAS, the 1983 Fourteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ has resolved that: The office of the President issue an immediate call to all pastors and congregations urging an active advocacy campaign to call upon the U. S. Government to grant to El Salvadoran and Guatemalan nationals seeking refuge to our country the privilege of "extended voluntary departure status" until they can return home with a reasonable degree of safety. It has further been resolved: that the Fourteenth General Synod applaud those congregations granting sanctuary to Salvadorans and Guatemalans, and encourage all our congregations to consider providing sanctuary until such time as extended voluntary departure status is granted; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has called upon its congregations to extend hospitality to persons seeking safe haven in the United States (G. A. Resolution #8330) and has affirmed the religious and moral rights of churches and synagogues to provide sanctuary and protection for those fleeing persecution as an age-old expression of the Biblical tradition of our faiths (G. A. Resolution #8549);

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Sixteenth General Synod reaffirms the action of the Fourteenth General Synod regarding sanctuary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Sixteenth General Synod recommends that collaboratively the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, the United Church Board for World Ministries, the Office for Church in Society, and the Council for Hispanic Ministries provide resources and coordinate programs to educate local churches about sanctuary and the plight of refugees in this country; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Sixteenth General Synod in response to immediate needs calls upon the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries and other instrumentalities to develop support, and administer a sanctuary mission or missions in the United States in order to help save God's people from torture, murder, and "Death Squads." Support could include responding to the following needs: education, bail bonding, legal services, transportation, medical, food, clothing, housing, programming, sponsorship, employment, counseling, companionship, and interpreters.

Financial Implications

Implementation is subject to the availability of funds.

5. COORDINATING CENTER FOR WOMEN IN CHURCH AND SOCIETY

Ms. Lucinda Gordon (WIS), chairperson of Committee 10 described the cooperation received from intended speakers, from the Nebraska Conference, from the 220 people who attended